FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1986

Libya

Tripoli television and Voice of Greater Arab Homeland Radio broadcast the opening address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at an international conference on imperialism, Zionism, and other issues in Tripoli 15 March. In his speech, Col al-Qadhdhafi called on the conference participants to undertake a "collective struggle" against "Imperialism and its filthy alliance" by establishing a "new internationalist organization" as an alternative to the United Nations. The Libyan leader claimed that smaller nations and "strugglers for freedom" have no confidence in the UN General Assembly, which has "no will of its own," and he charged that the UN Security Council is "a hindrance to the will of the Arab peoples." Al-Qadhdhafi also called on the conference participants to support Nicaragua and Cuba against U.S. "harsh threats" and "imperialism."

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes bombed an Iraqi military and economic center northwest of Qal'at Salih 18 March, inflicting "irreparable" damage on Iraqi forces, according to an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA. Earlier, Iranian ground and naval forces destroyed the Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr and an Iraqi frigate in the Khawr 'Abdallah 17 March, according to another communique cited by IRNA. In a news conference reported by Tehran radio, the Iranian defense minister claimed that Iranian troops are positioned on three "important" roads in the Al-Faw-Basra-Umm Qasr area and that all Iraqi counterattacks in the area have been defeated.

Meanwhile, Iraqi planes attacked the Iranian refineries at Esfahan 18 March, according to an Iraqi military statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. Iraqi planes also raided a group of Iranian vehicles south of Ahvaz, an Iranian command center, and another "large maritime target" 17 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. In Manama, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported that a Cypriot supertanker was on fire after being hit with an Exocet missile in an Iraqi attack south of Bushehr. In an interview with Egypt's *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, *Iraqi Navy Commander 'Abd al-Hamid* 'Abdallah announced that Iraq is determined to blockade Khark Island and to destroy all ships that approach it. 'Abdallah also claimed that the Iraqi Navy is in full control of the northern section of the Gulf.

Syria

A mercenary hired by Iraq was responsible for the explosion of a booby-trapped truck near the northern entrance to Damascus 13 March, Damascus television reported, adding that security forces had arrested the man responsible for the bombing. In a Damascus television interview, the arrested man said he was a Lebanese truck driver and that an Iraqi intelligence officer instructed him on how to detonate the bomb, adding that he was unable to take the truck into the area of the intended target, an officers club in Syria.

French Hostages in Lebanon

'Umran Adham, an envoy of the French president, told Lebanon's *AL-NAHAR* in remarks reported by AFP that the French hostages could be released "in the next few days" if France allowed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to deal with the situation. Adham told the paper that Ra'd had hampered the negotiations by making "ill-considered promises" to the kidnappers, AFP added. In another development, Damascus radio reported that Syria has played a "positive role" in the French hostages affair, adding that the country will continue to support efforts to achieve the hostages' release.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva held a closed session 17 March in an effort to agree on a joint approach to oil prices and production, but "moderates" and "radicals" in the organization remained far apart on key issues, AFP reported. The Nigerian oil minister later told IRNA that OPEC is prepared to lower its daily oil production ceiling in order to "improve" the market.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that PRC Presidnet Li Xiannian met privately with President Husni Mubarak. In a banquet speech reported by MENA, Mubarak praised PRC support for Egypt's policy in the Middle East, adding that Li's visit will further strengthen PRC-Egyptian friendly ties.

Libya-Chad

Chadian Government forces intercepted a patrol unit of "Libyan provocateurs and their mercenaries" Northeast of Koro Toro 17 March, according to a military communique reported by Ndjamena radio. Chadian troops pursued the unit back to its command post at Chicha, which was then "completely destroyed," the report added.

Sudan

Government forces withdrew from two garrisons 13-14 March after reinforcement forces were ambushed and dispersed, according to the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The radio also claimed that 65 mutinous government troops were killed in a clash at Juba airport when they refused to travel to the "frontline." Juba airport was closed "indefinitely," the report added. Meanwhile, the defense minister denied reports that SPLA troops defeated government forces at Jonglei in a statement to *AL-SAHAFAH* reported by SUNA.

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'Arafat Addresses Islamic Constituent Council

GF171809 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Mecca, 17 Mar (SPA) — The third session of the constituent council of the Muslim World League was held at the headquarters of the Muslim World League in Mina, under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abdallah ibn Baz, chief of the administration of scientific research, counseling, and guidance and chairman of the council, and by the attendance of Dr 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif, secretary general of the Muslim World League.

The session was also attended by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who at the beginning of the session spoke on recent developments of the Palestinian cause.

He said Jerusalem and occupied Palestinne face conspiracies aimed at destroying the al-Aqsa Mosque and building the alleged temple on its debris.

He added that the al-Ibrahimi Mosque only permits Muslims to pray in parts of it at certain times decided by the Israeli occupationist authorities. In his address he also cast light on the sufferings of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Mr 'Arafat warned against the dimensions of the conspiracy hatched by international Zionism and those standing behind it, which becomes clearer and is realized in the absence of Arab and Islamic solidarity. He also talked about the current situation on the Lebanese arena and warned against its dangers.

During its session the council discussed the decisions and instructions of the committees formed by the council during its current session. It reviewed the report of the political committee on the Iraq-Iran war and its developments in the arena to end the bloodshed. The committees formed by the council will hold its meetings later today to discuss a number of the session's agenda issues.

PLO Refutes Rabin's Claims of 'Alternative Leaders'

JN172037 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1649 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Talk by political editor]

[Text] Brothers: Zionist war minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said in a recent statement that what he termed Palestinian leaders in the area cannot be qualified spokesman in any negotiations. The reason as stated by Rabin is that the PLO, Jordan, and the Arab world will not permit them to be spokesmen. The war minister added that what he termed Arab terrorism will immediately liquidate any prominent personality who expresses willingness to hold a dialogue.

The first question raised by Rabin's statement is: Who are the prominent or nonprominent Palestinian personalities who expressed their willingness to hold a dialogue with him? Did the Zionist leadership indeed expect Palestinians to hold a dialogue with the occupation authorities when they are more aware than others of the occupation authorities' actions and objectives? If the Zionist leadership had expected that, it is now discovering through Rabin's own words that it had been naive in its expectations. It waited in vain. Its deception did not deceive anyone. In fact, nobody even bothered with it.

However, the Zionist war minister did not want to state the truth and say that his expectations were naive and that his deception was stupid. Rabin did not want to say that the Palestinian people enjoy a very high national consciousness and adhere to their established basic principles. They cannot be trapped by the enemy. Therefore, the Zionist war minister has fabricated these delusions to cover up his failure.

He fabricated the delusions about prominent Palestinian personalities who expressed a willingness to hold a dialogue with him. He also fabricated delusions about the PLO, Jordan, and the Arabs preventing those personalities from showing the willingness to hold a dialogue.

Rabin and others are captive to these delusions. He announces them in an attempt to influence others and even the Palestinian people themselves. However, all that will not shake the Palestinian people's self-confidence, either on the level of prominent or nonprominent personalities. Nobody will come forward from this people and offer his neck and destiny to his enemy. The Zionists will not find agent alternative leaders, not that the Palestinian people lack leaders, but because the sons of this people are pursuing a different course from that desired by Rabin. When they are steadfast in their land, they are leaders; when they carry a stone, a knife, or an explosive charge, they are leaders; when they stage demonstrations and raise the Palestinian flag, they are leaders; and when they declare confrontation and pursue the policy of liberation, they are leaders.

Rabin must prove that he is in control. But the enemy war minister knows that this is a problem without a solution.

Reportage on ICO Cooperation Committee Meeting

Seeks Increased Islamic Trade

TA111540 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1520 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Ankara 11/3 (AA) — Islamic Conference Organization's Permanent Committee on Commercial and Economic Cooperation COMCEC's "group of experts" meeting started today in Istanbul in an effort to help boost trade among Islamic countries.

The meeting, to end on March 13, will review the outcomes of the first COMCEC meeting in November 1984 and appraise the reports prepared meanwhile.

Ministers from ICO member states are due to discuss the same issues at the 2d COMCEC meeting to be held under Turkish President Kenan Evren between March 14-16.

Vice Chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) Tansely Abdourrahman Bin Abdaljallal recalled today that trade volume of Islamic Nations among each other constitutes only 10 percent of their total foreign trade. In his inaugural speech, Abdaljallal said they "have gathered here to find a solution to this problem."

The COMCEC experts meeting is to continue behind closed doors.

Developments since the first meeting of COMCEC are seen as "slow but concrete steps" taken towards better cooperation among Islamic countries.

Turkey had in the first COMCEC meeting proposed cooperation within ICO to "harmonize" industrial and agricultural standards. Industry ministers of the ICO states had decided to set up a coordination committee towards this end. Turkish Institute of Standards (TSE) has also lapsed [as received] some major steps in this regard in its bilateral contacts with Islamic countries.

In another development, the Islamic Development Bank concluded a project for financing long term trade among member states. COMCEC experts are also to review a report on this project.

Ozal Addresses Economic Committee

TA141540 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1500 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Istanbul, 14 Mar (AA) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said on Friday economic cooperation will pave the way for diffusing political tensions and enhancing ties of friendship.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the second session of the standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the ICO here, Ozal said he is convinced economic intergration of the ICO countries depends on the availability of the necessary infrastructure.

We must create a community easily accessible to all our citizens, Ozal said.

Ozal also said that elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers among ICO countries will be an important stimulus for the expansion of trade, and added that this would eventually lead to the establishment of a free trade zone.

He asserted that Muslim countries do not intend to isolate themselves from the world economy at large by fostering economic and commercial coperation among the ICO countries.

Our aim is to enter into international competition from a position of strength and thereby increase our ability to compete on better terms, he added. If agricultural and industrial potential of the Muslim world were put to use through increased trade, The turkish Premier argued, an "autonomous growth center" could be created.

Ozal, who is also the alternate chairman of the COMCEC, maintained that in the course of this development, "political conflicts now ravaging our region will gradually fade away."

"My government firmly believes that every concrete step towards economic cooperation will pave the way to diffusing political tensions and enhancing our ties of friendship and brotherhood."

Ozal said economic cooperation among nations brings into play forces of peace and mutual understanding.

Ozal also met before the inaugural ceremony the ICO Secretary General S.S. Pirzada at the hotel where the COMCEC meeting is to continue until Sunday, March 16.

Commercial Financing Approved

TA151900 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The Islamic Conference Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation has approved a package of easy terms for long-term commercial financing. Islamic Development Bank Governor (Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali) held a news conference after the approval of the package saying the aim of this project is to increase the export possibilities of members and encourage mutual trade. He said the package includes a system that will support the Islamic countries' export of nontraditional goods to other countries. For the project to be implemented, the package must be approved by the governors of the central banks of Islamic countries, who will meet in Jordan next month. The committee determined the amount of the fund that will be established within the framework of this project as $300 million initially. Half of this amount will be supplied by the Islamic Development Bank and the other half by the countries that will take part in the project.

Meanwhile, certain ministers in Istanbul for the Standing Committee meetings, have been holding news conferences at the building where the conference is being held. Industry and Trade Minister Cahit Aral was replying to foreign journalists' questions today when he said that Turkey's efforts to join the EEC will not harm its relations with the Islamic countries. Replying to another question, Aral said that the infrastructure necessary for Turkey's full membership in the EEC has been established in Turkey, and now it is up to the Community to fulfill its obligations.

Speaking to reporters today, Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu said Turkey consitutes a bridge between the Islamic world and the West, adding: If Turkey has good relations with the Islamic countries, it becomes a separate source of power for the Western world.

The foreign minister pointed out that Turkey's foreign policy has been determined in terms of the country's interests. He said that this foreign policy has certain foundation stones, namely, the ties with NATO, Europe, and the Islamic countries.

The Islamic Conference Standing Committee, and the Food, Security, and Agricultural Development Ministers' Group will end their meetings in a joint session tomorrow.

Evren Urges Cooperation

TA161515 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1450 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Istanbul, 16/3 (AA) — Trade and agriculture ministers from the 46 nation-ICO member countries ended their meeting here today with an appeal from the Turkish president to strengthen their cooperation. President Kenan Evren, the chairman of the ICO's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) said today the Islamic world will increase its weight in the world economic scene to the extent it strengthens its cooperation.

Speaking at the closing session of the three-day COMCEC meeting at ministerial level, Evren said their efforts for economic cooperation had passed mere decisions and "concrete" developments are now taking place.

Tallking on the plans to launch a long-term financing scheme within the framework of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Evren expressed hope that the scheme would contribute at the desired level.

The scheme was the only project Islamic ministers agreed at the meeting that it should be operational soon.

Credit guarantee facilities and the creation of a multilateral Islamic clearing union, also discussed by ministers here, were seen yet in their initial stages and more studies and work on them need to be done by the IDB.

Evren also urged ministers of the ICO countries to do more on cooperation among themselves in setting up transportation and communication facilities, food and agriculture and in providing to famine-stricken African countries more technical assistance along with food aid.

Pirzada, Ozal Speak at Closing

TA162100 Ankara Domstic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Speaking at the closing session of the Islamic Conference Organization Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation and the Food and Agricultural Development Ministers' Group, Islamic Conference Secretary General Pirzada said that useful results were achieved at meetings at the expert and minister levels. He said certain decisions were reached with full appreciation of the difficulties, but with optimism, adding the delegates agreed to implement these decisions as soon as possible. Pirzada said this achievement reflects an important step in the implementation of the action plan toward strengthening economic cooperation among the member countries.

He called on the Islamic Development Bank Administrative Board to approve the easy terms of commercial financing adopted at the meetings. He expressed the hope that at its next meeting, the Standing Committee will agree on the regional export credits guarantee system and on the establishment of an Islamic clearing union.

Pirzada pointed out that the support extended to the Palestinians' struggle for their legitimate rights will further strengthen the solidarity among the Islamic countries.

The Islamic Conference secretary general also stressed that with the inplementation of the measures adopted for increasing food and agricultural production, an important step will have been taken toward the Islamic countries' self-sufficiency.

Speaking at the meeting, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said that the Islamic Countries must intensify their cooperation. He said: The Islamic countries must rely on their own strength, they must encourage each other and minimize the effect of the outside world on their development efforts.

Discussing the critical stage of the world economy today, Ozal said that the protectionist measures of the industrialized countries are creating difficulties for the Islamic countries' exports. He said that if the Islamic countries want to minimize the effect of these unfavorable conditions, they must unite all their forces. The Standing Committee has assumed an important duty in His respect, he stressed.

Ozal said that the Islamic countries' decisions to develop trade among themselves, and to work for a larger share of world trade, will help them reach their common aim in a shorter period of time. He expressed the belief that beneficial results will be achieved if the next Standing Committee meetings discuss financial issues and the transportation, communications, and energy sectors.

The prime minister stressed that the Islamic countries must assess their natural resources in accordance with present conditions and increase their cooperation. He added: Our countries are engaged in economic cooperation with other countries or country groups in their regions. However, this must not be considered as a factor that limits the cooperation among us, members of the Islamic world. We must determine the targets of Islamic cooperation in accordance with our own realities. Trade, the most important field, constitutes the first step of our cooperation.

Ozal pointed out that to develop trade, ways for using financial resources in other fields must be sought. He stressed that the ultimate goal in the field of trade is the establishment of a free trade zone encompassing the Islamic world. He also said that viable possibilities are necessary to overcome the difficulties in economic cooperation. Within this framework, Ozal added, places will be allotted to the Islamic Conference members in the free trade zone being established in Mersin.

Prime Minister Ozal said representatives of private enterprises must visit each other to pursue cooperation possibilities directly. He explained increasing trade, investment, and financing activities among the members will eventually lead to an economic union, adding: In this way, the force of our common interests will reach a level where they can eliminate political conflicts. It is very important for the Standing Committee of the Islamic Conference, which is the single organization that encompasses the entire Islamic world, to become institutionalized into a forum of cooperation. When that happens, the vacuum felt in this field will have been filled.

Speaking at a news conference after the meeting, Prime Minister Ozal said that it is important for the economic cooperation among the Islamic countries to spread to trade, agriculture, industry, transportation, communications, banking, energy, tourism, and labor. He recalled that efforts to develop a model of economic cooperation within the framework of the common historical, religious, and social values among the Islamic countries are new, adding: The persons who will actively carry out this cooperation must get to know each other, they must meet regularly and institutionalize their relations.

Pirzada on Turkey's Role

TA171917 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Pirzada has said that Turkey is pursuing a consistent and harmonious policy between the Western and Islamic worlds. In a statement to ANATOLIA AGENCY in Istanbul, Pirzada said that Turkey, which plays a stable role within the Islamic Conference, also has relations with the Western world. He said: Turkey's geographic position necessitates such relations.

Referring to the oppression of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria, Pirzada recalled that the ICO foreign ministers conference recently held in Fes decided to set up a contact group on the issue. He noted that the 3-person group, which will visit Turkey soon, will also go to Bulgaria in the event permission is granted.

Referring to the war between Iran and Iraq, Pirzada referred to these two countries as two brothers within the Islamic family and said that neither should be isolated from the Islamic world in a bid to put an end to the war.

PLO Command Claims Destruction of Haifa Bus Depot

JN171915 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1712 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] A spokesman for the Palestinian revolution forces general command has stated the following: Our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are continuing to escalate armed operations against enemy personnel, vital and military installations, and targets throughout our occupied Palestinian territory. The following are the details of these operations:

1. One of our fighter groups managed to plant incendiary, explosive charges inside the Zionist central bus station in Haifa. The Palestinian charges exploded yesterday afternoon, completely destroying the station, burning and damaging a large number of buses, and killing or wounding a number of Zionist enemy personnel. Immediately afterward, a large force from the Zionist army and police was rushed to the scene of the operation, carried out an extensive search, and arrested a many Palestinian citizens on the pretext of involvement in the operation.

2. Our heroic revolutionaries used hand grenades and incendiary bombs to attack two Zionist military vehicles the day before yesterday. The first attack took place in the south of occupied Gaza Strip and the second on the Majdal Ashqelon road. The two vehicles were damaged and a number of Zionist soldiers sustained various injuries.

The Zionist occupation forces cordoned off the scenes of the two operations and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of involvement in the two operations. Our fighter groups withdrew from the scenes of the oeprations with complete success after carrying out their missions. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The Palestinian revolution forces general command

Joint Forces Attack Israeli-Lahd Position

JN171924 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1712 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The Palestinian-National Lebanese joint forces launched a machinegun and rocket attack yesterday evening against a joint military position of the Zionist occupation forces and agent militias north of Bint Jubayl in southern Lebanon. The position sustained grave material damage and a large number of Zionist soldiers and agent elements were either killed or wounded.

Further on Extraordinary Ministerial Session

'Intensive' Bargaining Reported

AU171225 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text]Geneva, March 17 (AFP) — Ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) were poised for intensive bilateral bargaining here Monday on a joint approach to the oil market crisis, but "moderates" and "radicals" remained wide apart on the key issues.

The mood was tense as the ministers went into closed session to discuss the dramatic fall of crude oil prices and possible ways of steadying the market. They later adjourned their formal sessions until Tuesday to allow an expert panel to assess world supply and demand for crude oil in each quarter of 1986. They were to use the afternoon for bilateral contacts, according to OPEC Chairman Arturo Hernandez Grisanti.

Conference sources said most delegates would like to "dedramatize" the talks. "The feeling is that we have to do something, but everybody is sticking to their positions," a ministerial aide of one of the "radical" countries said.

He said Algeria, Iran and Libya considered OPEC's overall production level as the main stumbling block after Sunday's initial "observation round" and a series of bilateral consultations aimed at probing the ground for some understanding with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the leading Gulf "moderates."

The three "hardliners' want OPEC to revert to its past policy of production restraint in order to bolser oil prices, while Saudi Arabia and Kuwait argue that the 13-nation organisation cannot turn the market around by themselves without some help from Britain and Norway, the North Sea producers.

Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, who strongly warned Britain Sunday that its refusal to cooperate with OPEC could spell "disaster" on the energy front a few years hence, issued a more muted warning to his OPEC partners that failure to restore a common front could send oil prices tumblin to eight dollars a barrel.

But conference sources said both he and his closest ally, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah of Kuwait, signalled their readiness to talk with the radicals and other OPEC member, like Nigeria, that have still not opted in favour of either camp.

The need to work out a common platform for coping with the current oil market crisis was stressed in remarkably moderate terms in a message from Iran's president 'Ali Khamene'i read out to Sunday's opening session by Iranian oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

Iran has been among the most vocal opponents of Saudi policy inside OPEC, but Mr. Khamene'i insisted on the need to "preserve the unity" of OPEC and cited member countries' responsibility towards future genrations in forestalling a "disaster."

Yamani Said Pressuring UK

LD171849 Kuwait KUNA in English 1734 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 17 (KUNA) — Saudi Arabia's Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani had been the proposer of the idea to suspend today's full meeting of OPEC ministers, and to set up a gathering of experts, according to several different conference sources Monday afternoon.

The main purpose of his action was to deliberately prolong the Geneva conference, and in so doing put more pressure on the British Government to come to some form of agreement with OPEC, the sources, including some from the Gulf, said.

The timing had been deliberate, with an eye on the British budget due to be announced Tuesday, they suggested.

The delegation sources were not optimistic that any OPEC agreement on production levels and prices would come out of the present Geneva meeting.

They discounted reports circulated by a U.S. news agency that a major deal on revised quotas aimed at achieving a price range of between 15 and 20 dollars had virtually been agreed upon in Geneva.

Instead, the general feeling was that as no agreement was likely, the best policy would be to do everything possible to put pressure on Britain.

They suggested that the Gulf producers would be prepared to accept a weak price for one of two months more.

The notion of an imminent deal in Geneva appeared to have been discounted by Libyan Oil minister Fawzi al-Shakshuki, who on leaving the conference hotel told pressmen that there was "nothing on the table" at present.

Saudi Source Denies Divisions

GF171556 Doha QNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Texg] Geneva, 17 Mar (WAKH) — An official source in the Saudi delegation participating in the OPEC ministerial council extraordinary meeting in Geneva denied news reports that there are divisions over reaching a unanimous OPEC resolutions.

In a statement to QNA, the Saudi source said that the issues which were the cause of dispute yesterday have not been discussed yet. Some newspapers have said that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Arab Gulf countries are demanding the safeguarding of the current production level, while Algeria, Libya, and Iran are demanding a reduction in production.

Egypt: Price Increase Looms

AU171640 Paris AFP in English 1633 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Geneva, March 17 -- The price of crude oil could rise to 20 dollars within three months if producers undertake an effort to stabilize the international market, Egyptian Oil Minister 'abd al-hadi Qandil said here Monday.

Mr. Qandil, speaking as an observer at a ministerial meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said he doubted that the market could absorb a price above 20 dollars.

Mr. Qandil said the participation of two other major non-OPEC exporters, North Sea producers Norway and Britain, is not indispensable to a common stabiliziation effort, a position that is not shared by Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani. He spoke of a new "realism" in Egypt, which has reduced output by 100,000 to 200,000 barrels a day in the last few months and is ready to cooperate with OPEC producers.

Iranian Minister Meets Counterparts

LD181011 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 18, IRNA — The Iranian oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, currently attending the extraordinary meeting of OPEC here, Monday discussed oil market situation in meetings with oil ministers of Nigeria and Indonesia.

In his meetings with the Nigerian oil minister, Aqazadeh said that the decline in oil price is a plot against OPEC. The Nigerian oil minister stressed that in order to prevent oil price decline, production quota of OPEC members should be lowered.

In a separate meeting with the Indonesian oil minister, Professor Subroto, both sides discussed measures to encounter problems in the oil market.

The Iranian oil minister stressed that failure of the OPEC members to face the plots against them and the economic crisis created in the region will not be controlled. He added that through production control oil prices could be stabilized.

Meanwhile the Iranian oil minister Sunday held talks with the Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates oil ministers. Aqazadeh told Saudi oil minister Zaki Yamani that if OPEC failed to come up with a solution oil prices may be lowered further. The UAE oil minister, Mana Sa'id al-Utaybah also expressed concern over the current situation in international oil market.

Kuwait Denies Price War Call

LD180956 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0907 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Mar (KUNA) — In a statement published here today, Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Industry Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhabi al-Sabah denied that he called for a price war against non-OPEC member oil-producing countries. Shaykh 'Ali was replying to a question by *AL-WATAN* newspaper on whether OPEC petroleum ministers have excluded Britain and Norway from any solution concerning the world petroleum situation.

The Kuwaiti minister told *AL-WATAN*: I have never said that we should go into a war against non-member countries. I have absolutely not said this at any stage. However, I said that the problem is that OPEC's share of the market is too small to divide it among us if the OPEC countries do not demonstrate willingness to sacrifice by reducing their shares.

Shaykh 'Ali, participating in an emergency meeting of the 13 OPEC member countries in Geneva, stressed that Kuwait favors the option of lowering the production ceiling: However, we have followed the policy that was chosen by the majority, that is, to defend OPEC's share of the market...[KUNA ellipsis] and now they want to change this direction...and, as in the past, we shall adhere to any collective decision that is taken regarding this.

In reply to a question on whether there is a tendency among OPEC countries to lower the production ceiling, Shaykh 'Ali said: It will be a catastrophe if there is no readiness to face the problem objectively.

The Kuwaiti minister reaffirmed that Kuwait, which produces around 950,000 barrels a day, is ready to do anything that is reasonable, "and although Kuwait's share was reduced at a higher rate when we reduced shares previously, we are ready for another reduction if the other countries demonstrate readiness for the same thing."

He reaffirmed Kuwait's readiness to contribute to solving the "big problems" which are facing OPEC now.

BAHRAIN

MAP: Amir Receives Moroccan Labor Minister

LD172209 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Manama, 17 Mar (MAP) — Shaykh ‘Isa ibn Salman Al-Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received Hassan Abbadi, Moroccan labor minister, Monday. He arrived in Manama from Kuwait early in the morning, in the framework of a tour of regional countries.

Paper Reports Shippers ‘Bracing’ for Iranian Attack

GF180535 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 18 Mar 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Gulf shippers were bracing themselves for a retaliatory strike by Iran today following the Iraqi missile attack on a Cypriot supertanker near Bushehr.

The 262,000-tonne *Achievement* was left on fire after being struck by an Exocet, 80 kms south of Bushehr.

Salvage tugs were last night racing to her assistance but were only expected alongside early today.

“Our estimated time of arrival is just after midnight,” a Gulf-based salvage source said last night.

“At the moment we have no idea how badly damaged she is. We just know she has been hit.”

A second Iraqi missile was fired and splashed into the sea only two meters from the salvage tug *Ribut*, which had been sent by the Singapore-based firm Weissmuller to assist fire-fighting operations.

Another shipping source said he now expected Iran to retaliate against neutral shipping in the Shah Allum Shoal area of the Qatari coast.

“Iran followed the four most recent Iraqi ship attacks with four of their own, so we expect them to follow suit,” he said.

KUWAIT

Reportage on Visit by PDRY Foreign Minister Al-Dali

Delivers Message to Amir

LD181105 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1001 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 18 Mar (KUNA) — Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today received a message from the South Yemeni President Haydar Abu Bakr al-‘Attas, the contents of which were not disclosed. However, it is believed that the message, which was conveyed by Dr ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Dali, South Yemeni foreign minister, concerns the developments in South Yemen over the past 2 months which led to the overthrow of the former president, ‘Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Received by Prime Minister

LD181202 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] In the prime minister's office today, Shaykh Sa‘d al-‘Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, prime minister and heir apparent, received Dr ‘Abd al-‘Aziz al-Dali, member of the PDRY Political Bureau and foreign minister and the accompanying delegation. Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and the PDRY ambassador to Kuwait also attended the meeting.

Oil Price Collapse Threatens World Economy

GF171741 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Manama, March 17 (WAKH) — Kuwaiti daily *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* Monday warned that the collapse in world oil prices does not only affect OPEC members, but the whole world's economy and currencies.

The daily praised the solution proposed by Kuwait in Geneva where the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are currently holding a meeting, to cut production below its official OPEC quota on condition that all 13 members strictly adhere to it without exception.

The paper called on the members to abide by OPEC decisions on pricing and production without violation, such as dealing on the black market.

Hailing Kuwait's initiative, the paper said with such decisions, Kuwait has for the third time agreed to abide with this difficult option to protect prices and reach a solution for the worst oil crisis witnessed since the formation of the organization.

The OPEC members are not the only people to responsible, but the responsibility is to be shared by Britain and the United States, the paper charged. [sentence as received]

In conclusion, *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* affirmed the need to agree on the cut in production as proposed in Geneva yesterday in a bid to combat a 50 percent fall in prices since OPEC's last meeting in December.

OMAN

Petroleum Minister Discusses Oil Prices

GF160826 Muscat ONA in Arabic 1945 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Muscat, 15 Mar (ONA) — Sa‘id Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals, has affirmed the importance of achieving a reconciliation among all oil-producing countries in order to prevent a new collapse in oil prices.

In an interview published by the newspapers *'UMAN* and *AL-WATAN* today, the minister said that there can be no solution to the issue of settling prices without reducing production quotas. He said that the unanimous adoption of such a decision by OPEC and non-OPEC countries will definitely result in stability in the oil market.

The minister said that the stability of prices will guarantee the achievement of current revenues, in addition to safeguarding oil reserves. He said that whatever is agreed upon should be adhered to, since division and mutual accusations will only result in further deterioration of prices.

Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari said: The previous phase witnessed a move with our brethren in the GCC countries for joint consultation, coordination, and cooperation in order to stop this deterioration. We hope others will adopt the same spirit of cooperation and coordination.

He said that during his stay in Geneva he will hold talks with oil ministers of countries that are not members of OPEC and who are participating in the conference in order to coordinate and consult with them on the current pricing crisis.

In his interview the minister of petroleum said that one of the reasons for declining oil prices is the lack of the spirit of understanding and agreement among the OPEC countries during the past period. OPEC-member countries attempted to coordinate and specified the production share of each country, with an overall production of 16.5 million bpd. Unfortunately, some countries took advantage of this agreement and increased their production without adhering to the production quotas which were agreed upon.

The minister said it is expected that the world's reliance on Gulf countries' oil will increase from the current 40 percent to 60 or 70 percent. This means that the strategic significance of this region will continue or even increase. He added that numerous oil fields in the world outside the region will close down in the 1990's, which will consequently increase reliance on the region's oil.

Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari said that attempts to look for alternative energy resources will take a long time before those resources are available at low prices. The important thing is to achieve a reasonable price for a barrel of oil.

Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari expressed the hope that OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries will coordinate among themselves, and that understanding and a spirit of cooperation will prevail among them since this will help stabilize prices and secure everyone's interests.

He pointed out that oil-producing countries are losing $ 74 billion annually as a result of the sharp drop in oil prices caused by their past disagreements.

He said that increasing production without agreement and according to the whim of every oil-producing country can never secure any gain; on the contrary, it contributes to increasing the losses.

In answer to a question on whether he expects oil prices to rise again in the event the oil-exporting countries reach an agreement in Geneva, he said that the present price is unreasonable, and if there is cooperation and agreement among OPEC and non-OPEC oil-exporting countries then it is possible that the price of the barrel may rise to $ 18, and to $ 20 at the beginning of the 1990's.

In conclusion, the minister of petroleum and minerals answered a question pertaining to whether Oman's plans for drilling new oil fields and developing present ones have been affected by the current collapse of oil prices. He said: The wise policy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, Oman's international reputation, and its geographical situation have largely alleviated the effect on Oman caused by the recent collapse of oil prices. He said: The oil which we currently produce is basically for the implementation of the goals of the third development plan which began at the start of 1986. Our production amounts to more than 500,000 bpd. If we desire to produce three times as much we will find a market for it. We do not have any marketing problems. However, our policy is to contribute as much as we can to achieve a stability of prices so that numerous other countries will not be affected. We have not stopped our search for new oil discoveries or the development of the present fields, since we are in a state of development which makes it necessary for us to proceed with all our plans in this sphere.

PDRY

UAE Paper: Road Opens Between North, South Yemen

GF181134 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Mar 86 p 3

[Excerpt] Aden — The road between the cities of both the PDRY and the YAR was opened yesterday for the first time since last January. The first group of passengers left Aden for Ta'izz using the 160-kilometer road which links both parts of Yemen.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Session 17 March

GF171744 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Mar (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired the Cabinet session this afternoon.

Following the session Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA. He said: His majesty the king reviewed with the Cabinet the latest developments of international and Arab political and economic events. His majesty also briefed the Cabinet on the course of the current negotiations taking place in the meetings held by OPEC in Geneva according to the report given to his majesty by Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, from the headquarters of the meeting. His majesty affirmed the keenness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to continue cooperation with the member countries of the organization, which ensures respect for its decisions.

His excellency said: The Cabinet then resumed the study of the financial regulations and measures, which were decided for the country to proceed on during the period of extending the budget, which ensures better proceeding of matters in all sectors.

Official Denies Currency Devaluation 'Rumors'

GF171955 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In reply to an SPA correspondent's question on rumors about the intention to decrease the value of the Saudi riyal, the governor of the Arab-Saudi monetary establishment affirmed that this is unfounded. In reply to a question on rumors about a shortage of foreign currencies at banks, his excellency said that this is not true and that the foreign currencies are found in abundance in the banks as usual.

Further on PDRY Foreign Minister in Riyadh

Denies Assassination Attempt on Al-'Attas

GF181119 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Riyadh — PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali has denied reports that there has been an attempt to assassinate Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council.

In a statement to *AL-ITTIHAD*, Al-Dali stated that such rumors are baseless. He noted that he had contacted Chairman al-'Attas from Riyadh 2 nights ago.

Leaves Riyadh

GF171555 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali left Riyadh this afternoon after a 3-day visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at the King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Ambassador 'Isa al-Nuwaysir; chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Muwaffaq al-Dulayfan, Saudi ambassador in Aden; and Muhammad ibn Sahl, PDRY ambassador to the Kingdom.

UAE Paper Reports Oil Minister's Interview

GF161619 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Mar 86 pp 1, 7

[Report on interview with Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi petroleum and mineral affairs minister, by Brook Shepherd, deputy chief editor of *THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH* newspaper in Geneva — published by *AL-ITTIHAD* in agreement with the Gulf Center for Strategic Studies in London — date not given]

[Excerpts] Regarding the effects of the oil crisis on the OPEC member states Ahmad Zaki Yamani said: We are now facing a critical situation. You can easily imagine that. Political disturbances may erupt due to the financial collapses. On the future of oil, Yamani said: We have to continue digging and exploring, but this requires money. Otherwise, we will find ourselves running short of oil. I tell you that you should invest with oil and not produce oil at any price whatsoever.

On the eve of the emergency OPEC meeting in Geneva the Saudi petroleum minister warned that if Britain does not cooperate to control oil prices, the crisis — in which Britain has the greatest responsibility — will definitely take place. Despite the negative reactions still coming from the British Government the Saudi minister made a strong appeal to Britain, urging it to stop playing the role of a watcher and to take care of its national interests and to participate in the efforts he is leading for instituting order in the chaotic oil markets.

Answering a question on what he means by the coming crisis, the Saudi minister said: What I mean is simply the future. The oil possessed by the world now is enough for a few decades, or less in the case of Britain. We should all continue digging and exploring and seek alternative resources. This requires money. We are in need of revenue. Otherwise, we will find ourselves without oil. The two crises which occured in 1973 and 1979 were political and we could surmount them because we had the resources, but now we are confronted with an absolute energy crisis. We are quickly wasting these resources. Some U.S. oil fields are being closed, thus causing a loss of 1.8 million barrels per day. These fields are lost forever. The same thing also applies to some fields in Canada. Oil production in the North Sea began to decrease by 20 percent per year. Some oil fields in Texas which are larger are being closed. According to the current oil prices, which decreased by more than one-half during the past few months, some minor companies in Britain will have to reconsider their situation by the end of this summer. Therefore, you British have to invest in oil and not to produce oil at any price whatsoever. I also say to you that if you do not take this decision, nature will take it on your behalf. When asked if there were factors other than the drying up of oil and nature the Saudi minister said: Certainly. Some OPEC countries are now facing a critical situation. I will not mention names, but you can deduce that and see political disturbances due to the financial collapse resulting from this stagnation and from the sudden decline in oil prices. Perhaps the only way to surmount and avoid this is for oil-producing countries outside OPEC, foremost of which are Britain and Norway, to cooperate to control prices. These two countries will not attend the Geneva meeting, but I will not lose hope in holding talks after that, perhaps in London.

The Saudi minister answered a question on whether it was correct that some countries suggested a plan to completely stop oil production for a period of 4 weeks to force an increase in international oil prices, and his opinion on this. The Saudi minister confirmed the idea, but he made no mention of the countries behind this plan. He said: What is the use of this? It is correct that the prices may increase to $30 per barrel for a short period, but they will again decrease to $10, for example, after that. It is not practical to ask the weak producers to join a plan for stopping oil production for a long period. We should not forget that we in Saudi Arabia, regardless of the revenues, depend on our energy production to maintain the continuation of our vital projects such as our huge program for water desalination. We have actually been harmed by imposing restrictions on ourselves for maintaining fixed international prices. For this reason, we were forced to postpone our next budget for 5 months. How can we approve the budget when we do not know what the oil prices will be this week or that. Oil prices may decrease to $8 per barrel.

I am not saying that this will definitely happen, but that it is likely to.

Spokesman Says 'No Truth' to Interview

LD172313 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Riyadh 17 Mar (SPA) — "There is no truth whatsoever in what *THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH* published Sunday morning [16 March], attributed to his excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, Ahmad Zaki Yamani, nor in the comments that followed in both the *DAILY EXPRESS* and the *FINANCIAL TIMES* in their issues this morning, Monday."

This was stated by an official spokesman in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to SPA. The source added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been trying its utmost to unite OPEC and has been working, using all amicable methods, to maintain the ceiling that was fixed at the previous session.

Therefore, it believes that the ideal solution for settling the differences between OPEC member-states is in the conviction of all for the need to stop at the ceilings decided by the organization, according to which the quotas had been alloted to OPEC member-states.

The source said that if the members stuck to the resolutions of the organization as per their latest agreement, there would not have been a conflict in views inside the organization.

Therefore, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that it will always be in accord with the OPEC member-states, because the Kingdom does not harbor any rancor toward anyone — it works only in the interest of everyone.

Consequently, the Kingdom still looks forward with great hope to the cooperation of the oil-producing states outside the organization and to their understanding of the real facts.

The official spokesman concluded his statement, saying that when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wants to announce a decision or a specific view it would come via its official information media.

UAE

Zayid Sends Messages to Iranian, Somali Presidents

GF181023 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] His Excellency President Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has sent a written message to His Excellency Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i pertaining to bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. His excellency the president also sent a written message to Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre pertaining to bilateral cooperation and current Arab issues.

The two messages were sent through the diplomatic channels in response to two similar messages his highness received recently from the two presidents.

Petroleum Minister on Need To Stabilize Oil Prices

GF161257 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, has stated that the UAE is willing to participate in any OPEC efforts to restore stability to the international oil market and resolve OPEC's problems.

In statements to *AL-ITTIHAD* published today, he said that the major challenge which confronts OPEC is to make some members agree to reduce production.

He pointed out that the UAE, alongside oil-producing countries in the Arabian Gulf, welcomes any reduction carried out by non-OPEC oil-producing countries in order to absorb the present glut in the oil market.

In answer to a question on whether OPEC will abandon its strategy to increase its share of the market, he said: We are increasing our share at present and will continue to do so in our own way.

He expressed regret that Britain and Norway did not participate in OPEC's efforts to stabilize prices.

He said: We understand the economic and political circumstances of some countries. However, we hope that they will one day cooperate with us in their own way.

Dr al-'Utaybah gave the first indication that the OPEC and non-OPEC oil-producing countries may achieve an agreement on commitment to some sort of restraint in production in order to stabilize prices.

Mubarak, Li Xiannian Deliver Banquet Speeches

NC172139 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — President and Mrs Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet at the Al-Qubbah Palace this evening in honor of PRC President Li Xiannian, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him. The Egyptian officials attending were People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, the deputies' prime minister, and the ministers.

The Egyptian and Chinese leaders exchanged speeches. In his speech, President Mubarak lauded the PRC's support for the Egyptian people's struggle to attain their objectives and the PRC's sound policy to eliminate the dangers menacing the Middle East region, to consolidate security and stability in this region, and to enable the fraternal Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, foremost being their right to self-determination.

President Mubarak strongly praised the PRC stand and its initiatives in support of the just struggle of the Arab and African peoples to achieve political, economic, and cultural independence, to liquidate the vestiges of foreign monopoly and hegemony, and to struggle for improved socioeconomic conditions, under the appropriate regional and international circumstances.

President Mubarak noted the PRC support for the Lebanese people's endeavors to bring about the evacuation of foreign troops and regain their national and regional unity. He also praised the PRC rejection of the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran and the PRC call for resolving all existing differences through negotiations.

Responding to Mubarak's speech, the PRC president said that Israel is completely responsible for the years of disturbances in the Middle East. He noted that the Israeli authorities' aggressive and expansionist policy has obstructed the solutions in the Middle East.

The PRC president reiterated the strong support of the PRC people and government for the Arab and Palestinian peoples in their just struggle to regain their usurped land and national rights.

Continuing, the PRC president declared his country's support for the convening of an international conference under UN auspices, to be attended by all parties concerned to discuss the settlement of the Middle East problem. He affirmed that the Palestinian issue is at the core of this problem.

The PRC president noted that peace will not be established in the Middle East if the Palestinian problem is not solved in a just and reasonable manner, and if Israel does not withdraw from the occupied Arab lands and does not recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Touching on the relations between the two superpowers, the PRC president welcomed the restoration of dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union and the resumption of their disarmament negotiations.

The following is the text of the speech that President Husni Mubarak delivered at the dinner banquet:

Dear friend Li Xiannian, Mrs Li Xiannian, dear friends, from the land of venerable China in the glorious Far East, you come to the Arab Republic of Egypt, where continents and cultures meet and nations and peoples join together on the path of development and progress. Our people receive you with complete pride, affection, and love as true friends, sincere, honorable brothers, and faithful comrades in the struggle, who have always been true to your promises, adhered to principles, upheld what is right, and been committed to duty. In this, you have set an example to the nations that are working for a better world, in which peace reigns, in which justice and equality are embodied, and in which states both large and small enjoy their rights, pursue their interests, and preserve their dignity.

We welcome you, dear friend, as a representative of a great people, who have contributed much to the development of the human civilization and to the achievement of glory and progress on this planet, and who have presented to the world colossal achievements that are not confined to the tangible but extend to what is more fundamental and lasting. These noble achievements are the spiritual, intellectual, and philosophical concepts that elevate individuals and societies to higher levels, free them from worldly ambitions, and which give meaning to human life. But many nations and peoples have not yet reached these levels.

It is a historical fact that, since the dawn of history, the concerns and goals of the Egyptian people have been similar to those of the Chinese. Therefore, the two civilizations proceeded along the same cultural course, despite the fact that they are located far apart. Just as the old Egyptians had mastered the secrets of agriculture, the smelting of minerals, writing, the idea of dividing work, the techniques of building, and the sciences of engineering and astronomy, we find that your great predecessors had achieved similar feats. In the 16th century B.C., during the reign of the Ming Dynasty, Chinese feats included writing, agriculture, irrigation, spinning and weaving, the smelting of minerals, and delicate handicraft. The two peoples have been in contact throughout history. There is a firm conviction that the Chinese and Egyptian civilizations that emerged in both the Far and Near East constitute two parts of the same development process, with the identical views, goals, and objectives.

Dear friend, you had the opportunity to visit Alexandria during the past few days. This is reminiscent of the trips that your predecessors made to this city in the 1st century, they named the city (Woo Sinti Asan) and told their compatriots of the culture and civilization they had seen there. In a similar way, Egyptians have been going to your great country for centuries. They acquired knowledge and wisdom from it, and also brought commodities and handicrafts. Egyptian archeologists have uncovered many pieces of Chinese pottery under the city of Al-Fustat. They believe that these were brought to Egypt during the reign of Ibn Tulun at the end of the 9th century. Some Egyptians have settled in China, choosing it for themselves and their descendents.

If we view contemporary history, we find that the strong relations between the two countries and peoples were inevitable because of their substantial similarities and mutual attraction. It was natural that Egypt was the first Arab and African country to recognize the PRC, to exchange diplomatic relations with it, and to support its right to a prominent international role, which includes affecting world affairs. In a few weeks, we will together celebrate the 30th anniversary of this great event.

In a similar way, we find that the PRC was among the leading forces that supported the Egyptian people in their fight to liberate their territories and to defend their rights, sanctities, and independence. The noble Chinese people were a faithful ally in war and in peace. The PRC was among the first to understand the nature of the struggle of the Egyptian people, the nobility of its aims, and its correct policy to ward off the dangers menacing the Middle East, to consolidate security and stability in the region, and to enable the fraternal Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination and to establish a state on their territories. Under all conditions, the PRC was the first to support the just struggle of the Arab and African peoples to achieve political, economic, and cultural independence, to liquidate the vestiges of exploitation and foreign hegemony, and to bolster their capacity to battle for economic and social development, under suitable regional and international circumstances. From this premise, stems your support for the fraternal Lebanese people's endeavors to bring about the evacuation of foreign troops from their land, to regain national and regional unity, and to exercise sovereignty and independence.

From this also, stems your rejection of the ongoing war between Iran and Iraq, your appeal to stop this destructive war, and your call for the parties to resolve all their differences through negotiations. Thus, you hope to protect the interests of the two neighboring peoples and preserve the unity of the Third World countries, in the face of dangers and challenges.

Friends, I was happy to visit the PRC and to make the acquaintance of its great leaders and to learn of the achievements of its noble people. We strengthened bilateral cooperation in the various fields during the visit I paid to Beijing in April 1983. Arriving with a sincere desire to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between our two countries and noble peoples, I received positive responses from friends Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Military Commission; Zhao Ziyang, State Council president and premier; Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Communist Party; and Peng Zhen, chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress. The talks we have started today with the great guest of Egypt, President Li Xiannian, will add considerably to our efforts to strengthen the ties of affection and to increase the sharing of common experiences and exchange of expertise.

Permit me, brothers and sisters, to ask you to stand, as a sign of respect for dear friend President Li Xiannian, his wife, the friends from the PRC who are present, the great Chinese people, and the firm friendship between the Egyptians and Chinese. God's peace and mercy be with you.

The following is the text of the speech that Chinese President Li Xiannian delivered during the dinner banquet, in reply to President Husni Mubarak's speech:

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Mrs Mubarak, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honor for me to come to friendly Egypt on an official visit, in response to a kind invitation from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. As soon as our feet touched your good land, the Egyptian Government and people overwhelmed us with their generous hospitality and kind reception. This made us feel at home and as if we were among our relations. This evening, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, an old friend of the Chinese people, held a dinner banquet in our honor and delivered a very warm speech in which he expressed the friendship and fraternity of the Egyptian people for the Chinese people. On behalf of my colleagues and in my own name and in that of my wife, it pleases me to extent to his excellency the president and his wife, profound thanks and gratitude. I also seize this opportunity to convey the Chinese people's kind greetings and profound respect to the Egyptian people.

Egypt is a venerable, civilized state, with a long history and magnificent culture. Throughout history, the diligent and courageous Egyptian people have contributed distinctively to mankind's civilization and progress. At present, the Egyptian people are exerting persistent efforts to build their country and preserve world peace. The Chinese people are extremely happy for the Egyptian people's achievements in these fields.

For many years, turmoil and anarchy have dominated the Middle East, capturing the attention of the peoples of various countries in the world. By adhering to their aggressive and expansionist policy for a long time, the Israeli authorities have not permitted the Middle East problem to be resolved. The two superpowers' conflict in this region has further complicated matters. The Arab states and the Palestinian people have waged heroic struggles for over 30 years to regain their usurped territories and restore their national rights. This action has added pages filled with excitement to the annals of the Arab nations' resistance to aggression.

The Chinese Government and people support unwaveringly the various Arab peoples and the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their usurped territories and restore their national rights. The Chinese Government and people also support the convening of an international conference under UN auspices, to be attended by all the parties concerned to discuss a settlement of the Middle East problem.

The Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem. Peace in the Middle East region will not be established unless the Palestinian problem is solved in a just and reasonable manner, and unless Israel withdraws from the occupied Arab soil and recognizes the national rights of the Palestinian people. The Israeli authorities must conform to the movement of history, give up aggressive and expansionist policy, and act in a practical manner, so that peaceful coexistence can be achieved between the two nations.

The solution of the Middle East problem depends first and foremost on the solidarity and struggle of the Arab and Palestinian peoples. Although the Arab countries and the PLO are in different situations and use various tactics in their struggle, they have a common, historical mission. Each is making efforts to achieve the shared, lofty, and patriotic objectives.

We hope, or rather, we are confident that if these efforts continue among the Arab countries, the PLO, and the Palestinians to find common grounds, to disregard minor differences, to consolidate their solidarity and cooperation, and to gain the broadest international sympathy and support, their just struggles will inevitably and definitely triumph.

The peoples of the various countries of the world loudly demand a relaxation of the tense international situation. These peoples are actively working for world peace. The United Nations named 1986 the year of world peace.

We welcome the resumption of dialogue and disarmament negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. We hope that they will reach agreements that grant the peoples' desires.

We believe that the forces working for peace are currently triumphing over those working for war. At this time, the establishment of lasting world peace is possible, if all the forces aiming for peace join together and persist in their struggle. The Chinese people are ready to do all they can, along with all countries and the peace-loving people in the world to bring about this brilliant future.

His excellency the president, Mrs Mubarak, traditional ties of friendship bind the PRC and Egypt and their peoples. Egypt was the first Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with New China. The late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and late Prime Minister Zhou En-Lai with far-sightedness and sound judgements, which are the features of great politicians, laid the cornerstone of the friendship and cooperation. This has given the traditional friendship between the two peoples a brilliance over the past 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between PRC and Egypt.

Despite the many changes in the world, the friendship between our two countries and two peoples has withstood the test of time and has been further strengthened through our common struggle. The two nations are cooperating closely in supporting the national liberation movements, in working together to establish world peace, and in assisting each other in developing their national economies and elevating their peoples' standard of living.

It is worth noting that His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has visited the PRC three times without it being any problem. This was a significant contribution to the development of Chinese-Egyptian relations. I hope that my visit will further consolidate the friendship and cooperation, which are based on mutual respect and confidence. We hope that our relations, which have scope for broad development, will contribute further to world peace.

May I propose a toast to the great friendship between the Chinese and Egyptian peoples. I wish the Arab Republic of Egypt progress and prosperity and its people happiness. May I also propose a toast to the health of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Mrs Mubarak, and the friends who are present.

Mubarak, Li To Resume Talks

NC171527 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and PRC President Li Xiannian will resume their talks tomorrow, Tuesday, at the Republican Palace in Al-Qubbah. They will continue to discuss those issues on which they conferred during today's 75-minute session. The two presidents held a private meeting immediately after the arrival of the PRC president in Cairo on an official 4-day visit to Egypt.

Lutfi Receives Message From Pakistani Counterpart

NC171423 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi has received a message from his Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Khan, on ways of strengthening Egyptian-Pakistani cooperation in all fields. The message was delivered by Iqbal Ahmad Kham, Pakistan's visiting minister of justice and parliamentary affairs, during his meeting today with Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi.

Talks during the session dealt with the importance of the continued enhancement of bilateral relations in the fields of economics, culture, and religion. Identical views were expressed regarding the need to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem more quickly, to stop the murderous war between Iraq and Iran and to start peace talks. The prime minister stressed Egypt's desire to strengthen its close ties with Pakistan.

'Abd al-Majid Cited on Threat to Gulf

NC171810 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stated that his country is doing all it can to work with the parties concerned to give momentum to the Middle East peace process and is urging certain parties to show flexibility, so that peaceful settlement may be reached. 'Abd al-Majid said that the dispute over UN Resolution 242 can be settled if the parties involved show flexibility, in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Replying to a question, 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt cannot stand idle, while the Gulf states are threatened, following the Iranian advance in southern Iraq. Egypt bears its full responsibility on national Arab security.

Mubarak, Government Criticized for Riots, Unrest

Opposition Blames Government

PM171427 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Interpellation at the People's Assembly Requests Cabinet Resignation"]

[Text] The parliamentary opposition has stuck to its position and rejected President Mubarak's appeal to the assembly not to debate the 25 and 26 February incident. Deputy Ahmad Taha questioned the prime minister on the incidents, which he described as a reflection of the bad economic and social conditions in the country. He held the government responsible for the deterioration because it followed the instructions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

In his interpellation, the assembly member stressed that the recent incidents meant that the government's general policy has failed and underscored the need for new policies and for a new government.

Mubarak Speech Criticized

PM171639 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 12 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Challenge"]

[Text] The president's speech last Saturady gives rise to many questions and observations. Some of them are related to great expectations, in view of the way in which the president handled the 25 and 26 February incidents, and media's concentration on the importance of the speech, and the announcement of a special Cabinet meeting attended by the president directly before the speech. Many of these questions and observations, however, have to do with the seriousness and significance of what happened and what was more than a mere mutiny in one of the sensitive institutions of power.

The first, and certainly most important, observation is that the real causes of the economic, social, and political crisis in Egyptian society — of which the recent incidents were only a symptom — have been overlooked. This is clear in many respects, such as:

1. The speech ignored an issue that has been pressing for the past 10 years, ever since the open-door policy was introduced in Egypt, namely the issue of social justice. That cannot be attributed to coincidence or to a need for in-depth study. The regime obviously lacks a clear and specific social vision, and that ultimately makes it a captive of the current social situation based on a massive income gap, with provocative accumulation of wealth on the one hand and poverty and hardship on the other.

2. Strangely, the speech said nothing about the issue of wages and prices, which is linked to the question of social justice and to the people's livelihood and mounting day to day worries.

3. Despite full awareness and recognition of the economic crisis and despite identification of some of its symptoms, there is an unwillingness to tackle its main causes and, consequently, a failure to introduce sound remedies that should not be confined to appeals to Egyptians working abroad to increase their money transfers to Egypt or appeals to the rich not to spend their summer holidays abroad and to save foreign currency.

4. The importance of expanding the channels of expression and opening the doors of organized activity to all forces, classes, and social groups to ensure that political and social struggle is conducted peacefully and to avoid violence was disregarded. That disregard was most evident in relation to one of the most basic human rights, which is the right to stage peaceful strikes, especially in the case of the working class. To abolish that right and make it a crime means turning it into a national political issue at a time when the circumstances necessitate the opposite.

These observations and indications mean that the regime still insists on its method of handling the crisis and on not introducing any real social, economic, or political changes or, in other words, that it insists on maintaining the present state of affairs on the pretext of stability, thus ignoring the issue of change that has been strongly raised since 1981 and which has become extremely important following the 25 and 26 February incidents.

The nationalist forces, parties, and figures — wherever they may be — which believe in the need for and importance of change, have no alternative in their endeavor to compel the regime to change its policies and respond to the masses' urgent calls for change, but to quickly achieve a broad national agreement on an urgent program for tackling the economic, social, and political dimensions of the crisis.

That is the challenge facing us in the coming days and we have no option but to accept the challenge and accomplish the mission.

Editor Voices Complaint

NC151310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The editor-in-chief of the Egyptian weekly *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* today criticized the Egyptian State Security Service, accusing it of turning from an organ assigned to protect the security of the state and the public, into one that terrifies honest people, paralyzes their movement, and limits their tasks.

Ibrahim Sa'dah described those assigned to gather information for this service as deviationist, corrupt, and not to be trusted. It is worth mentioning that this criticism comes 3 weeks after the mutiny of the Central Security conscripts.

NPUG Condemns Israel's Participation in Cairo Fair

PM180951 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Arabs Boycott and the NPUG Condemns Israel's Participation in the Cairo Fair"]

[Text] An NPUG official spokesman has condemned Israel's participation in the Cairo international fair as being a perpetuation of the Camp David policy. The spokesman reaffirmed the NPUG's complete rejection of any attempt to normalize relations with the Zionist enemy against a background of continued aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people and of Israeli defiance of internaitonal law, because that would mean condoning or overlooking Israel's policy.

Because of Israel's participation all the Arab states, with the exception of Sudan, have boycotted the fair. The chairman of the board of the fairs and exhibitions authority told *AL-AHALI* that Israel has been unable to conclude any commercial deals through its pavilion at the fair despite its continuous attempts to do so since it participated for the first time in 1981. He added: But there are risks in not allowing Israel to participate officially because the normalization process is linked to the Camp David treaty.

For the first time in 8 years the Soviet Union is participating in the fair along with nine other socialist states.

Interior Official Denies Shooting in Cairo Suburb

NC171538 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpts] A responsible source in the Interior Ministry has announced that two political prisoners made an attempt to escape from Turah Prison at dawn today. This source stressed that news agency reports of shots being fired early this morning for 30 minutes in the Al-Ma'adi suburb, and of two Army helicopters flying over the area, were not true.

Senior Information Official Starts European Tour

NC171348 Cairo MENA in English 1330 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA) — Chairman of the Information Authority Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji left here today for London on the first leg of a tour comprising West Germany, France, and Britain. The Egyptian official will meet there with editors-in-chief of a group of papers, news agencies and television networks. Dr. al-Biltaji said that the general cadence of the international news media was positive and understanding, adding that he would also try to correct some wrong concepts.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 17 March

JN191917 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1858 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive committee chairman, arrived in Baghdad at noon today. 'Arafat will hold talks with Iraqi officials on the latest developments in the region and the Palestinian cause.

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN171959 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here tonight. They reviewed developments in the Iranian aggression on Iraq. 'Aziz briefed 'Arafat on Iraq's high preparedness and mounting ability [word indistinct] to crush the Iranian invaders. [Words indistinct] Iraq's firm, principled stance toward the Palestinian cause and its full support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Navy Commander on Blocking of Khark Island

PM171309 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Jamal Kamil report: "Iraqi Navy Commander Tells *AL-JUMHURIYAH*: We Will Destroy All Ships at Khark Island"]

[Text] Iraqi Navy Commander Staff Rear Admiral 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abdallah has stated that Iraq is determined to blockade Khark Island and destroy all ships entering or leaving it regardless of cost and consequences. This, he said, is naturally Iraq's right, because oil is the main weapon used by Iran to ensure continuation of the fighting.

In an exclusive interview with *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, he said that the Iraqi Navy is in full control of the northern section of the Arab Gulf and of 150km of Iraqi and Iranian coastline. He challenged the Iranian Navy to prove its presence anywhere in the northern part of the Arab Gulf. The Iranian Navy, he added, is 1,000km from Al-Faw and Ra's al-Bishah.

He revealed that the Iraqi Navy has new weapons and missiles in its possession which it has not used and that it has reserves massive enough to keep the battles raging for months.

Official Denies Umm Qasr Shelled, Helicopters Downed

JN181505 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — An authorized military spokesman has denied that the Iranians shelled Umm Qasr harbor in any way. He said that the harbor did not sustain any damage and that the Iranians did not attack any naval target. On the contrary, the spokesman added, it was the Iraqi naval force which dealt a blow to a naval target near the Nawruz oil fields and returned safely to base.

The spokesman noted that the Umm Qasr harbor is open to news agency correspondents and reporters who would like to ascertain the allegations of the Iranians which are intended to cover up their losses and the Iraqi air strikes. The Iraqi spokesman also denied that two Iraqi helicopters were downed and added that Iranian planes bombed a residential border area without inflicting any damage except the martyring of one civilian.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Planes Raid Esfahan Oil Refineries

GF181204 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Military spokesman announcement]

[Excerpt] Squadrons of our gigantic Air Force planes made a sudden and violent raid on the Esfahan refineries inside the Iranian depth at 1110 (0810 GMT) today under the command of the Al-Qadisiyah hero pilot Major Mahmud Jasim Muhammad. They dropped tons of shells, thus hitting its installations so accurately — which Iraq's eagles are known for — and converting them into wreckage and leaving fire and columns of smoke covering the installations of the refineries and the region.

After the eagles carried out their duty, they returned with their planes to the homeland victoriously and triumphantly, carrying with them the signs of God-supported victory. May God bless our Air Force's command, eagles, officers and men. Let the [words indistinct] ruling (?clique) in Iran know that they will inevitably face their terrible and [word indistinct] end. They will soon suffer from humiliation and defeat at the hands of our believing and strong men.

[Date] 18 March 1986

2 Iranian Planes Forced To Flee

JN181030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1019 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — Two Iranian planes penetrated Iraq's international borders in the Maysan Governorate today intending to strike at residential areas. Iraqi antiaircraft defenses intercepted them and forced them to flee.

INA has learned from a military source that one civilian was martyred in the incident.

'Medium-Sized' Maritime Target Destroyed

JN181222 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1214 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi Navy destroyed a medium-sized maritime target southeast of Iranian Nowruz oil fields this morning.

In a statement to INA, a military spokesman said the Iraqi Navy delivered the strike at 1015 [0715 GMT] today, destroying and sinking the target on the spot.

Communique No 2,153

JN171804 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Communique No 2,153 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 March 1986]

[Excerpt] The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. At the VII Army Corps front, our forces of the heroic Al-Rashid column and the northern column have continued their pressure on enemy remnants with intensive firepower, supported by extensive Air Force, naval, helicopter, and artillery assistance. Our triumphant forces inflicted massive losses on enemy soldiers, equipment, hardware, and weaponry. Our brave forces are imposing absolute control on the operational theater while the enemy is trying in vain to hide in its dens under continuous Iraqi fire day and night.

2. We have pledged to keep their graves open to swallow their remnants and all their means of aggression and evil. By God, we will continue to pursue them both on the battlefield and deep inside their territory day and night until we blunt the claws of tyranny and kill in Gods name the evil spirits which have settled in their bodies. The battle will continue until we strip them of every means of strength so that they will submit to justice in humiliation.

After our daring Air Force planes launched a series of attacks last night in order to spread death and terror among the Khomeyniites, squadrons of our planes raided a concentration of enemy machinery in an area south of Ahvaz at 0940 [0640 GMT] today. The concentration included 183 vehicles of various types and 18 hideouts for enemy weaponry and machinery. Our eagles pounced on their prey with devastating bombs which always hit their targets, turning all vehicles and hideouts into burning junk sending forth flames and smoke.

Our daring Air Force eagles continued their well-known attacks on the heads of the Khomeyniites all day today, flying 179 combat missions. Our planes destroyed many enemy troop concentrations and huge quantities of weapons and equipment. After carrying out all these missions, our pilots returned safely to base, protected by God.

3. In addition to the above, our Air Force raided enemy concentrations and equipment, destroying a command center composed of several trailers, 6 artillery positions, more than 36 vehicles, and 1 ammunition dump. Our daring planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. In addition to their capable, efficient performance, our brave eagles launched a successful raid against a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 0445 [0145 GMT] today. The target received an accurate, effective hit. At 1515 [1215 GMT] today, our planes launched another raid against a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast, dealing it an accurate, effective hit. Our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

5. The helicopter gunships continued their deadly flights, inflicting massive losses on the enemy in weaponry and equipment and lending splendid support to our land forces which were continuing their pressure on the retreating enemy. Our helicopter gunships flew 118 missions and returned safely to base.

6. The forces of tyranny and aggression shelled the Mandali suburbs, Khurmal, and Darband-e Khan with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Comamnd, 17 March 1986

AL-DUSTUR on U.S. Official's Remarks on Refugees

JN170852 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Mar 86 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "A New and Serious U.S. Initiative"]

[Text] The statement by a U.S. State Department official calling on Arab countries to absorb Palestinian refugees into their countries constitutes the first initiative of its kind in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This is an extremely dangerous statement because it was made by a U.S. official whose country is blindly biased toward Israel and provides all means to enable it to ignore the international resolutions and will.

Such a statement, which envisages a U.S. policy that is even more biased toward traditional Israeli viewpoints, is blatant violation of all UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian Arab refugees although the United States, which claims big international responsibility for issues of security and peace in the world, sometimes even voted in favor of these resolutions.

Although this stand, if officially adopted, would not add much to the existing U.S. policy in the region — the policy through which the United States prevents the implementation of the UN and Security Council resolutions in light of its support for Israel — the U.S. announcement of such a stand entails a big change in its theoretical stand toward the refugee issue, and is a serious development that should be confronted in its first stages.

The strange thing is that the statement by the U.S. official, which was addressed directly to the Arab countries, did not receive the attention it deserves. Consequently, this will encourage the U.S. Administration to adopt such a stand in the future as official policy toward the refugee issue and to work to make this principle acceptable.

What makes this surprising U.S. statement more serious is that it comes after the United States and other countries reduced their financial contributions to UNESCO, and after UNESCO, due to a big deficit, reduced its services to the Palestinian refugees and threatened to stop them altogether if the concerned countries, particularly the United States, did not pay their share of UNESCO's budget.

We believe that this U.S. call constitutes a new danger threatening the issue of the Palestinian refugees and their inalienbale right to repatriation or reparation. We stress that the Arab countries should study this stand hinted at by the United States and respond to it with all available means so as to keep thePalestinian issue alive and prevent the Zionist objective of thePalestinain refugees from being absorbed into their Arab host countries.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Condemns Damascus Explosion

JN180736 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
18 Mar 86 p 1

[Editorial "Terrorism is Condemned, Rejected, and Despicable"]

[Text] Regardless of the motives, and the sides which support it, plan for it, and perpetrate it in cold blood based on the logic of false heroism, terrorism will always be a disgraceful and condemned act on the religious, moral, and pan-Arab levels. There is no place in this nation for those who carry out acts of sabotage, destruction, and who seek to fragment homelands and ranks.

Jordan has suffered from terrorism for a long time and, as a result of terrorist acts, has lost some of its best youths and leaders. Its institutions abroad have suffered a great deal because of its clear stands, because its political and ideological line and understanding are based on clear basic pan-Arab principles, and because commitment to these principles was Jordan's only choice.

The terrorist operation carried out in Damascus last Thursday was merely a link in a chain of plots aimed at harming Syria, further splitting Arab ranks, and escalating the differences which are overtaking this nation and exhausting and squandering its energies and capabilities.

Those behind this criminal act, regardless of their nationality and affiliation, with their great courage and heroism, should have detonated their explosives and booby-trapped cars in Tel Aviv and Herzliyya. They should have carried out their rancorous, reckless, and outrageous act against the enemies of the Arab nation, history, mankind, and land.

It seems that the Arab method of dealing with political differences in viewpoints and ideas, which are normal matters, has become in our Arab world a dialogue of weapons, terrorism, and the consequences of this method instead of a rational dialogue. Thus, the Arab situation and action have gone back to square one and the same experiences and negative and destructive results will be repeated.

The pure and honest Arab has no choice but to condemn the criminal and terrorist act that took place in Damascus, and to call for striking with an iron fist at every criminal in this nation who seeks to hamper the march of reconciliation regardless of his objectives and methods.

French Hostages Could Be Freed 'Before Sunday'

NC151221 Paris AFP in English 1214 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Damascus, March 15 (AFP) — Dr. Razzah Ra'd, an unofficial mediator negotiating the release of French hostages held in Beirut, left here for Paris Saturday with offers from the kidnappers which may lead to the release of the prisoners before Sunday, he said.

Dr. Ra'd left on board a private jet at 1100 GMT, and was expected to arrive in France at about 1500 GMT. Dr. Ra'd, a Lebanese-born Frenchman of the Shia Muslem faith, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he was returning to Paris Saturday afternoon to "report to the Government" of France on his mission. "I am returning with offers," he said. "I hope they are final."

The Islamic Jihad Muslem fundamentalist group kidnapped journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann, diplomats Marcel Fontaine and Marcel Carton and researcher Michel Seurat in Beirut 10 months ago, and claims to have recently killed Mr. Seurat.

Dr. Ra'd said that the hostages could be released before Sunday's general elections in France if an agreement was struck between Paris and the captors. "I will start my mission again next week if the French authorities ask me," he said, adding that "the door was open" in the talks. He did not elaborate.

In Paris, the French Interior Ministry announced Saturday a reform of the expulsion process and said an investigation had been carried out into the expulsion of the two Iraqis. "The events thus revealed necessitate several administrative measures which are being undertaken," an Interior Ministry statement said. It gave no details on the measures but said they would reinforce human rights guarantees and came into force Saturday.

"The reform that has just been carried out is destined to ensure that in the future the expulsion will not result in sending a person to a country where he or she could face problems for political reasons," the statement said.

Two official French envoys sent to Damascus and Beirut, sent for the hostage crisis, were due back in Paris Saturday, authoritative sources said. Informed sources said a third envoy remained in Tehran.

French External Relations Minister Ronald Dumas has remained in France instead of attending Olof Palme's funeral in Stockholm Saturday, in order to concentrate on the hostage affair, a ministry statement in Paris said.

Ra'd Involvement Criticized

NC171218 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 17 (AFP) — An envoy of President Francois Mitterrand said French hostages held in Lebanon could be released in "the next few days" if France left Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to deal with the situation, the Lebanese daily *AL-NAHAR* reported Monday.

The envoy, 'Umran Adham, a Syrian businessman based in France, told the daily that an informal French envoy, Dr. Razzah Ra'd, had hampered negotiations. Mr. Adham told *AL-NAHAR* that Dr. Ra'd had prevented Syria from dealing with the hostage situation by making ill-considered promises to the kidnappers.

Dr. Ra'd, a Lebanese-born French doctor, had been negotiating with Islamic Jihad, the group which kidnapped diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann and researcher Michel Seurat almost a year ago. The group claims it killed Mr. Seurat, but his body has not been found.

A four-man French television crew is also being held hostage in Lebanon.

Mr. Adham said that if Syria reached an agreement with the kidnappers there could be a two-stage release, with the television crew freed first followed by the others.

Karami on Security Situation in West Beirut

NC171532 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Remarks by Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after chairing a meeting of the West Beirut Coordination Committee on 17 March — recorded]

[Text] The Coordination Committee has conducted an in-depth review of the security situation in West Beirut, the measures taken to curb security violations, and the events that all our people have complained of. As you know, we have drawn up and approved a plan, and we are determined to implement its remaining provisions.

In light of the outcome of the National Action Committee meeting, I repeat that the task of the strike force will not deviate from the agreement announced by the Islamic Grouping in Damascus. The strike force will coordinate with the Internal Security Forces at the operations room and with the Army to quell any disturbances that party members might provoke. From this premise, we reiterated our decision to implement what was agreed upon previously. The gunmen, whose only mission is to wreak havoc with the public's security, dignity, and rights, are to assemble, and all offices in West Beirut are to be closed. That is what we agreed upon today.

We also discussed the results of the mission carried out by papal envoy Silvestrini following his meetings in Damascus and Lebanon. I feel that existing differences, particularly those among Christians and, specifically, at the Maronite level, restricted Silvestrini's role to one of listening to ideas from the various parties. Silvestrini announced from the Vatican that these parties would continue their work, and he wished them all success. Frankly, the hopes that some have created are nothing but a waste of time. We have grown into die-hard enemies over the years. Therefore, we hope that all efforts will be channeled in the proper direction so we may all become brothers and sons of the one family. This would crown the principles advocated by the pope — unity and coexistence among the Lebanese.

I have heard a number of voices talking about and promoting security arrangements with the Israeli enemy. I would like to remind you that those voices were the first godparents of the ill-fated 17 May agreement, which was abrogated by honest campaigns. They are currently advocating a similar accord and are emphasizing the need to draft security arrangements. We tell them: No to security arrangements with the Israeli enemy. In saying no, we express the aspirations of the national resistance, which embodies the feelings of all sincere Lebanese.

We reject the security arrangements because they limit Lebanese sovereignty. In addition, they legitimate and legalize Israel's interventions. I would like to recall my July 1984 statement that these security arrangements, which were stipulated by the government, are purely Lebanese. When Israel completes its comprehensive withdrawal, in accordance with Resolution 425, we will be quite prepared to implement the Lebanese security arrangements. We are also prepared to put into effect all the provisions of the armistice agreement. We declare our commitment to this agreement, yet Israel does not consider it binding. This agreement, which cannot be cancelled unilaterally, is still in effect. Thus, we remain committed to it. Let everyone be aware that all the support for the Lebanese security agreement with Israel has no effect. The 17 May agreement has been cancelled, and we are not prepared to conclude anything similar to it.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, you said in your statement that the inter-Christian differences, particularly those involving the Maronites, have rendered the Vatican mission a failure. Do you think that, with this development, we have reached a blind alley?

[Karami] I did not say that the Vatican mission has failed. Rather, I said that the inter-Christian differences, and particularly those with the Maronites did not give the Vatican mission a chance to adopt stands, and thus become a party to the dispute. Therefore, I cannot imagine that the Vatican will be able to meet with greater success than the Lebanese themselves.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, can you explain why the implementation of the security measures in West Beirut has been delayed?

[Karami] There is not any delay. The security forces and the special units daily implement these measures. The strike force will join them today.

[Question] Is your excellency optimistic that this time the security situation in West Beirut will be finally stabilized?

[Karami] We must be optimistic because all the parties are truly committed to implement the program drawn up by the Islamic Conference in Damascus.

[Question] On the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, have the obstacles, particularly those posed by the U.S. Administration, been eliminated?

[Karami] We are waiting for the issue to be discussed at the UN Security Council. We are confident of international support for the UNIFIL mandate because these forces are the sole guarantee of continued security in the south.

[Question] A last question. Mr Prime Minister, yesterday in Tripoli, you delivered an important speech in which you sounded the alarm. Should the citizens be informed that Prime Minister Karami has lost his optimism?

[Karami] I do not want to be dragged into discussing optimism and pessimism. We must talk about the situation as it is. If you ask any citizen, he will tell you that he is concerned about the surrounding dangers, in view of the continuing struggles and of all the aborted solutions. You all are aware of the financial and socioeconomic situation in Lebanon. If we do not take these matters into consideration, we will be deceiving ourselves. This is not in our character. Our warning is based on facts derived from the citizens' daily lives. Let us be God-fearing, and defend the Lebanese and their country.

Birri on Vatican Initiative, USSR Funding of UNIFIL

NC172005 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri said today that the tripartite agreement was followed by the so-called 15 January coup. He added that the military struggle has been deadlocked since then, but that this has had no effect on the political war.

In an interview with the Abu Dhabi-based paper *AL-ITTIHAD*, Minister Birri stated that the prevailing trend in East Beirut is both provocative and military, and shows no appreciation of the papal initiative. Even before the Vatican envoy's departure, a military initiative supplanted the papal one. This military thrust was spelled out by Samir Ja'ja' on the first anniversary of his uprising against the Phalangist Party. A military parade was also held on that occasion.

Minister Birri noted that Israel and its lackeys in the [Lebanese] Forces will push matters toward a full-scale military confrontation in order to reduce the burdens resulting from their losses in southern Lebanon and to distract the attention of the resistance struggle.

On the Vatican initiative for Lebanon, Minister Nabih Birri pointed out: I believe it ended before it began, as the other side [Lebanese Forces] tried to abort it, and its sole purpose was to unite the Christians.

In response to a question, Minister Birri declared that the fight against the regime, be it political or military, continues. He affirmed that there can be no solution with this government. Minister Birri rejected any security arrangements with Israel beyond the provisions of the armistice agreement and Resoluton 425. He also revealed that some intend to ask the Soviet Union to help defray the costs of UNIFIL.

UNRWA Employee Kidnapped in Beirut

NC181111 Paris AFP in English 1104 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, March 18 (AFP) — A driver of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was kidnapped Tuesday near the Palestinian refugee camp at Bourj al-Barajinah in the Shia

Muslem-dominated southern Beirut suburbs, an UNRWA statement said.

Zahi Hamadah, a 49-year-old Palestinian refugee who lives at the camp, was taking UNRWA staff to work in a bus when the vehicle was intercepted by a Mercedes, and he was taken away by armed gunmen. British UNRWA journalist Alec Collett has been held hostage in Lebanon since last August.

Strength, Composition of Party Strike Force Revealed

NC171139 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] This morning's joint meeting involving the Beirut National Action Committee and military commanders from the various parties ended at 1130. After the sesion, the committee's secretary, Munir al-Sayyad, pointed out: We discussed the question of deploying the strike force, which will assemble near the Carlton Hotel at 1700 today. It will then take up positions in specific barracks and centers. The battalion is comprised of 425 men drawn from several parties — 55 members from each group.

When asked if Hizballah would be taking part in the strike force, Al-Sayyad replied in the negative. However, he did say that contacts were being held with Hizballah.

As for the closure of party offices, Al-Sayyad noted that a number of groups have already begun closing their offices, and that this process will be completed in a few days. All new party offices will be shut as well. However, each party may retain one main office and one branch. Should any party refuse to close an office, it will be done by force. In addition, all shows of military might have been banned.

He answered a question on coordination with the Palestinian National Salvation Front by saying: We only discussed West Beirut today. The question of security in the camps was not raised. On the price of bread, Al-Sayyad declared: We will not reverse our decision. The price of bread has been set at 3 pounds a kilogram and will be controlled by the Internal Security Forces.

Al-Sayyad pointed out that the Strike Force will maintain positions in Caracas, the Sports City, and at the Holiday Inn. Its command post will be in Al-Rawshah. Al-Sayyad reported that another meeting would be held at 1530 today to delegate responsibilities and distribute men among the barracks.

Strike Force Deploys

NC171926 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The members of the strike force were deployed in their set positions this evening in accordance with the agreement reached by the National Action Committee and in line with today's accord between the committee and the military command of the strike force. The committee's secretary announced that the force will work in harmony with the West Beirut Security Coordination Committee under Prime Minister Rashid Karami. The secretary added that the strike force will establish roadblocks only at the request of the coordination committee, the security forces, and Army personnel. He noted that the unit's major tasks will include the closure of all newly opened offices. However, each group will be allowed to retain a headquarters and a branch office. In addition, the secretary pointed out that, as of today, the force will be responsible for preventing any shows of military strength. He also revealed that contacts with Hizballah are still under way.

Fighting in Upper al-Matn; Southern Suburb Calm

NC171814 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports from upper Al-Matn, clashes there, involving the use of machineguns and rockets, are raging. A guarded calm prevails along the combat lines in the southern suburb. Bursts of machinegun fire are now being heard along the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat line.

Further on Operations, Fighting in South

'Resistance' Details Actions

NC171152 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Front has issued a statement saying that the martyr Abu 'Arabi forces fired two 107-mm Grad rockets this morning at a position held by agent Lahd's militia in Al-Surayri, which is in Jazzin district. They also shot three 107-mm Grad rockets at the Marj 'Uyun Barracks and another two at the occupied Galilee. There is no additional information available on these operations due to the imposition of a security cordon. At dawn today, National Resistance fighters shelled the crossing point in Ra's al-Naqurah, destroying a center used by enemy guards and killing all those inside. A third group bombarded a post belonging to a unit of Israeli engineers in the Iskandarunah area, scoring direct hits.

Israeli-Lahd Patrol Attacked

NC181035 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] National Resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge this morning in Wadi Sribbin, which is in the western part of southern Lebanon, as a mechanized patrol mounted by the occupation forces and Lahd's militia passed by. The blast destroyed a vehicle and killed or wounded all those inside. Israeli helicopters then flew over the scene of the operation, as the occupation troops and Lahd units deployed on the surrounding hills opened fire with heavy- and medium-caliber machineguns.

Israeli naval vessels were also seen patrolling the waters off the southern coast between Al-Naqurah and Sidon. Israeli warplanes conducted low-altitude sorties and broke the sound barrier over Sidon.

U.S. Will Pay Price of Ignoring Repatriation Right

JN171649 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Some 2 days ago, a U.S. spokesman was clear on the Palestinian Arab people's rights. He was even clearer than required because he divested the Palestinian Arab people of most of their inalienable national rights, including those recognized by UN resolutions in 1948 and 1949, in other words, the right to repatriation and the right to regain some land occupied by the Zionist invasion 1 year prior to and also 1 year after the declaration of the Zionist entity.

The land is that of the triangle, the Negev, and most of the Galilee, in other words, most of so-called Israel.

This U.S. stand is not new. However, what is new in it is that it, or rather the United States, has declared war against the Palestinian Arab people and their inalienable national rights. The U.S. spokesman said Israel was created to last and that the Palestinian refugees' return to their homes conflicts with this, which means Israel's existence necessitates the death of the Palestinian Arab people — a death sought by the United States and Israel.

The U.S. spokesman gave more details explaining this equation by admitting that 2 million Palestinian refugees living outside Palestinian territory are still hoping to return home. He said Arab countries should not nourish this delusion, as he put it. This is full U.S. ignorance about the truth of the Palestine question.

The U.S. spokesman, as well as his country, imagines that the relationship between the Arabs and the Palestinians is similar to that between the United States and its agents in Nicaragua for example.

The United States imagines that the Arabs might end supporting the Palestinians just as it can stop backing its agents in this or that Latin American country. The hope for repatriation is not only a luminous hope, but also a right mentioned in UN documents.

Moreover, this right is being protected by millions of Palestinians and tens of millions of Arabs.

The United States must understand that the right to an honorable return to Palestine, as well as the right to regaining Palestinian national rights, are not only Palestinian rights but are also rights of the Arab nation. The right to return to Palestinian territory is not only a Palestinian hope nourished by Arabs or Arab countries, but is also a common hope existing in the conscience of all Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular, because the latter are an indivisible part of the Arab nation.

This is the foremost fact in the region and the world which cannot be canceled by the behavior of those Arabs who have lost faith and national honor. The right to repatriation is not only a right for 2 million Palestinians, but also for 200 million Arabs. Ignoring this fact by the United States means that it will pay dearly, just as Zionism will pay the full price.

Hostage Release Efforts Made Within Capabilities

JN171300 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, there has been much talk recently about the kidnapped French hostages and about contacts between French envoys and representatives of the kidnappers or the sides protecting the kidnappers. Talk about the hostage issue intensified before the French parliamentary elections conducted yesterday which resulted in a victory for the right-wing alliance with an absolute majority in the National Assembly and in the loss for the ruling Socialist Party to the position of first party in the National Assembly with 214 seats but without a majority.

The linkage between the hostage issue and the French elections was clear. The imposition of the hostage issue in French political life and the elections is an internal French affair linked to the rules of the political game in France as well as to the traditions, bases, and party competition in that country.

Media observers noticed a premeditated intention to involve Syria in this issue in one way or another. This involvement was not confined to the explanation and interpretation of the mission of the French envoys and others who came to Syria. Some French media organs went further and hinted that Syria, which has a presence in Lebanon, could locate the hostages, release them, and send them safely to their families.

Of course, some of those who involve Syria have good intentions, but those are few. Others do so, not out of good intentions, but to harm Syria in French public opinion, and maybe in world public opinion. It will not be easy to do so because facts speak stronger than illusions and claims.

Syria is in principle against terrorism, and Syria, out of its principles, is also against kidnapping defenseless people, journalists, and diplomats. Syria believes that just causes do not need unjust tools. The victory of these causes does not demand the kidnapping or killing of innocent people. Syria's stand condemning terrorism and kidnapping is very well known in the world. This stand was stressed and repeated by President Hafiz al-Asad on many occasions — in his speeches and statements to European and U.S. media organs. This Syrian stand is firm and has not changed.

Syria of course distinguishes between terrorism and national resistance of occupation and aggression. Syria has always warned against the danger of being deceived by Israeli attempts to label the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab national resistance of Israeli aggression and occupation as an act of aggression. This resistance is competely legitimate and, in fact, is required, just as the French resistance against the Nazi occupation was required and legitimate.

Syria opposes terrorism and kidnapping directed at innocent civilian people, diplomats, and defenseless journalists who are carrying out their normal work. On many occasions, Syria has helped efforts to release kidnapped people, leading these efforts to success.

In the issue of the French hostages in particular, Syria has played a positive role well known by the French president and government. If the efforts exerted so far have not yet led to the release of the hostages, who are alive, Syria is not responsible for this; it is the responsibility of circumstances in which Syria has no hand and which France knows well. In light of the available capabilities, Syria will continue to support efforts being exerted to find circumstances and conditions that can facilitate and achieve the release of the hostages.

It goes without saying that Syria has a moral influence in Lebanon and a presence in some Lebanese areas. However, Syria has no presence in each city, village, farm, and house in Lebanon. Syria's presence in Lebanon is not equal and should not be compared to the French presence in France. If the French authorities are incapable of discovering a number of French and foreign terrorists in France who are wanted by French justice, it is unfair to think that Syria is capable of determining where the French hostages are located.

Syria has helped in the efforts exerted to release the hostages and ensure their safety. It will continue this help within the available capabilities.

Khaddam Receives UN's Goulding, Delegation

JN171922 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1800 today Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah. The discussion dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East and the situation in Lebanon, especially in the south.

Khaddam affirmed the need to achieve a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and to apply UN Security Council resolutions.

'National Solution' Opponents in 'Vicious' Circle

JN170958 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 17 Mar (SANA) — *TISHRIN* affirms that those who obstructed the implementation of a Lebanese national solution represented by the tripartite agreement are moving in a vicious circle. Their efforts are far from dealing with the crux of the Lebanese crisis. The paper adds that recent events have proved that a solution in Lebanon should be based on a solid national foundation, on a broad popular rally around it, and on a new situation in which affiliation with and sincerity to the homeland should be the criterion and basis.

In an editorial under the healdine "National Solution," the newspaper asks: What have those who obstructed a solution achieved, and where are they going? *TISHRIN* says: It seems today that the horizon is dark. It will be darker still if Lebanon departs from a national solution.

TISHRIN adds: Facts have proved that those who obstruct a solution represent only themselves, that nobody has responded to their weak proposals buried in the 11 years of internecine fighting. Those people did not find anybody in Lebanon to hold dialogue with, nor will they find anybody. They have closed the doors on themselves and on Lebanon at the same time.

The newspaper stresses that the intentions of those who obstructed the tripartite agreement were not good toward Lebanon and their fellow citizens. *TISHRIN* asks: Would tension and internecine fighting be an alternative to the national solution entrenched by the tripartite agreement? Would closing doors, making the people feel desperate, paralyzing the national economy, encouraging factional and divisionist proposals, and enabling the enemy to tamper with the south be alternatives to the big national achievement sponsored by Syria — the solution planned to restore Lebanon's vital role, to recover Lebanon, and to achieve peace, security, and prosprerity there?

TISHRIN concludes: Syria pledged and remains determined to help Lebanon. Syria will certainly continue cooperation with all honest people to implement a national solution after everybody realizes the bankruptcy of those who obstructed the tripartite agreement.

Additional Reportage on 13 Mar Damascus Explosion

Casualty Toll Reaches 200

NC171846 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The investigation into last Thursday [13 March] evening's explosion in Damascus' Al-'Abbasiyin Square has revealed a number of details. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the inquiry uncovered the fact that the [booby-trapped] truck had a Lebanese license plate, but its authenticity has not been confirmed. According to additional information made available to the Voice of Lebanon today, the number of casualties has risen to 200 dead or wounded, above and beyond the grave damage to buildings and cars.

As a result of the blast, the Syrian authorities have put stringent security measures into effect along the border with Lebanon. They have been conducting a meticulous search of cars in Al-Masna'.

Iraq 'Booby-Trapped' Truck

JN171747 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] At 1830 on Thursday evening 13 March 1986, the Iraqi regime sent out a booby-trapped refrigerator truck which was detonated by a mercenary near the northern entrance of Damascus. This criminal act led to the wounding of a number of citizens who were in that area. The security forces arrested the criminal who is now in the hands of justice.

'Confession' Obtained

NC172126 Paris AFP in English 2107 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, March 17 (AFP) — A Lebanese "mercenary in the pay of the Iraqi Government" carried out a truck bombing in Damascus last Thursday, injuring a number of people, state-run television said here on Monday, in the first reference to such an incident.

The number of casualties was not reported.

In a purported confession, a man identified as Ahmad Hassan 'Id, 27, told viewers that he undertook the mission in exchange for parole from a jail term in Iraq after killing an Iraqi officer and three members of his family in a road accident.

The bomb, placed in a refrigerator truck, was to have been detonated by remote control outside an officers' club in central Damascus, but he failed to get close enough, he said. The television said the vehicle exploded at the northeastern entrance to the capital.

Mr 'Id said the truck was handed over to him at an Iraqi intelligence base a few kilometres (miles) from the Iraqi-Jordanian border, and his mission controller was a Palestinian-Jordanian national named Rajab Radwan who owned a road transport firm in Baghdad. He said he received a 1,500-dollar advance payment against "expenses."

Mr 'Id said he had worked as a truck driver moving between Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries, after fleeing the war in Lebanon in 1976.

Accused Interviewed

JN171735 [Editorial Report] Damascus television in Arabic at 1735 GMT on 17 March carries a 10-minute video-recorded interview with a man accused of detonating a booby-trapped refrigerator truck near the northern entrance of Damascus at 1830 on Thursday 13 March.

He said his name is Ahmad Hassan 'Id of Lebanese nationality, born in Dayr 'Ammar, Lebanon, in 1959. He said he works as a trailer driver and that in 1976 he left for Iraq to find work there. He worked in an Iraqi yogurt factory until 1980. In 1980 he returned to Lebanon and drove a trailer owned by his cousin. He drove the trailer through Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia transporting goods.

When work dwindled because of the Iraq-Iran war, Ahmad turned the trailer into a fuel tanker operating between Baghdad and Aqaba. He said that in November 1985 a road traffic accident occurred in Baghdad when a car carrying an Iraqi military officer and his family hit his fuel tanker. The Iraqi family died in the accident. Ahmad was imprisoned in an Iraqi jail in the Al-Ramadi Governorate for 52 days.

Two men, Rajab Radwan and his son Marwan Radwan, visited him in jail to get him released on bail. Ahmad said their nationality is "Palestinian-Jordanian." They offered to help him and took him to their transportation office in Baghdad. They also fixed his damaged vehicle. The two men asked Ahmad to drive a refrigerator truck from Iraq and to leave it in Syria. Ahmad agreed to perform this task.

Some 2-3 days later, Rajab told Ahmad that the refrigerator truck he was asked to drive to Syria would be booby-trapped and that he should detonate it opposite an officers club in Syria. Ahmad agreed to this mission under threats of being taken back to jail if he failed to carry out the mission. Ahmad was promised money and good treatment in Iraq.

Ahmad and Marwan left Baghdad accompanied by two Iraqi officers to [the Iraqi town of] Al-Rutbah. Ahmad said: "We arrived in Al-Rutbah and entered an intelligence center. I saw a parked yellow Mercedes refrigerator truck. I was told that this was the refrigerator truck I would take. An Iraqi intelligence officer, accompanied by a soldier, told me that this refrigerator truck was booby-trapped and that they would teach me how to use it."

Ahmad said he was given a device and told to put batteries in it. He was also told to keep the device with him while away from the truck and to detonate it from a distance of four blocks. He was told to press a button to blow up the refrigerator truck.

Marwan gave $1500 to Ahmad for trip expenses. Ahmad left Iraqi territory and entered the H-4 border post. The following day, he passed the Dar'a border post into Syrian territory. Inspecting the location where he was asked to park the refrigerator truck, Ahmad discovered it was difficult to enter the area of the Syrian officers club. Ahmad then parked the truck 40 meters away from a bridge near the northern entrance of Damascus, detonating the truck on Thursday 13 March.

AL-BA'TH Blames Saddam Husayn

JN180610 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0437 GMT 18 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Conspirators Cannot Undermine Syria's Steadfastness," the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* says: Thanks to its people's sacrifices and its leader's efforts, in a short period of time Syria has become the symbol of Arab steadfastness and dignity and the trench in which all plots and aggressions will founder. This is why our enemies, big and small, have lost control. They had been plotting in their dens mean crimes in a desperate attempt to affect Sryia's steadfastness and undermine its firm and principled stands.

Within this framework falls the hideous crime planned by Iraq's criminal executioner Saddam Husayn in sending a boody-trapped refrigerator truck to the capital of steadfastness to spread destruction and death. The criminal executioner who destroyed Iraq and its people and wasted its resources through his crazy war against Iran believed, along with his imperialist and Zionist masters, that through this crime they could achieve their evil objectives.

But, ignominy to them, they only can carry out acts of sabotage and kill innocent citizens. They are impotent to affect Syria or undermine its people's steadfastness and their determination to pursue struggle and strengthen their stands. On the contrary, those mean crimes will only increase our determination, because we know that we are proceeding on the sound course, realizing that this course requires sacrifices, sweat, and blood.

Concluding, *AL-BA'TH* stresses: Syria, which is strong beside its Arab nation, people, party, and the leader of its victorious march, and which is the symbol and conscience of the Arab nation, will continue the march of struggle. It will not be affected by plotting and treason regardless of their form and size. Let every criminal, agent, and traitor, foremost being Iraq's fascist executioner Saddam, know that Syria is capable of putting an end to their brutal crimes. Any crime will bring double retaliation to all those who attempt to act against the Arab masses and their legitimate aspirations of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining all usurped rights. Just as it has achieved victory in all the battles it has entered, it will achieve victory over any new attempt from any side. Victory will eventually be at the side of the Arab masses, whose aspirations and objectives are expressed by Syria.

Israel To Continue Efforts Toward Peace, Negotiations

TA180606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has declared that Israel will continue to aim at continuing the peace process and at negotiations with Jordan and moderate Palestinians. In a speech before the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, in Tel Aviv, he emphasized that the deadlock that has recently developed in this regard will not discourage him. However, at the same time Israel will increase its activities to improve the quality of life of the residents of the territories.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Thomas Pickering, spoke on the same occasion. He also emphasized that the U.S. Administration will not relinquish its commitment to the peace process and its efforts to give it momentum, despite efforts by radical and terroristic elements to disrupt the political process and make our lives difficult.

Peres Addresses Jurists on Legal Status of Territories

TA171903 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says there can be no change in the legal status of the territories until the peace process has run its course. Peres explained that the Camp David agreement and the decision by the coalition prevented extending the Israeli law to the area [of the] West Bank and Gaza. The prime minister went on to say that Gaza was never part of Egypt and the international community never recognized Jordan's annexation of the West Bank. Peres was addressing an international conference of jurists at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

[Begin Peres recording] Legislation must come as a result of the political process; it can neither precede it nor replace it. In other words, if in the human realm legislation must wait patiently until the process of nation-building will reach a point of stability, in the geographic realm, too, legislation must wait until the peace process runs its course. But in the territories, as with the people, the long corridor of preparation must be filled by the judiciary. The government must guarantee the safety and security of all, Jews and Arabs alike, and the courts must ensure justice for all, regardless of indentity, passport, or permanence. [end recording]

AL-SHA'B Editorial

TA171124 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Mar 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Rabin's Options"]

[Text] In a lecture on the future of the occupied territories Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin affirmed Israel's rejection of the option of the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This old-new rejection is connected to insistence by the Labor Party, which shares power with the Likud, on putting forward plans and programs that ultimately mean writing off the Palestinian people, their cause and their rights. It also denotes an attempt to rally around the "Jordanian option" and "self-administration" slogans.

This clear stance must serve as a reminder to numerous international circles that speak of opportunities lost by the Palestinians and of constructive positions that Israel has begun adopting during Peres' term in office. These positions are similar to those of the Likud in their essence, aims, and ideology.

When Rabin rules out the option of a Palestinian state, he is, in fact, ruling out the peace option and affirming Israel's commitment to the option of war, expansion, and tension. The entire world now realizes that achievement of peace in this tense region depends on the realization of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

Regardless of how some may try to evade or deny these facts they will constantly find themselves — as recent days have proved — returning to square one and confronting the reality that it is impossible to ignore legitimate Palestinian rights.

Peres Hopes for $25 Billion for Economic Plan

TA171257 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Mar 86 p 2

[Report by Yosi Melman]

[Text] The prime minister hopes that $25 billion will be collected for his Middle East Policy plan "Economics for Peace." During yesterday's Cabinet session, Shim'on Peres mentioned the sum for the first time since he first proposed this plan during his trip to Europe about 3 months ago.

In reply to a question by Minister of Commerce and Industry Ari'el Sharon, the prime minister stressed that he hopes this sum will be collected from the seven most industrialized countries in the world, through their commercial and state banks.

During his short visit to Stockholm, the prime minister discussed his plan with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, French President Francois Mitterrand, former Japanese Prime Minister Fukuda, and West German Chancellor Helmut Khol, and he will discuss it at length with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz when he visits Washington in about 2 weeks.

Peres, who has expressed fears over the possible military and political implications for the Middle East as a result of the economic crisis afflicting the Arab countries and the drop in their oil prices, hopes that Western economic aid will help maintain stability in the area. It will be noted that the sum of $25 million [as published] is greater than the State of Israel's budget and many ministers, including the economic ministers, are skeptical about whether this sum — or even a sum approaching it — really can be raised from the Western countries.

Prime Minister Peres Views Palestinian Claims

PM171419 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 14 Mar 86 p 5

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres by Cordelia Edvardsson: "Modern Socialism Has Lost a Leader" — no date given]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem — "Olof Palme was one of the leader figures in the troika of modern socialism," Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview with *SVENSKA DAGBLADET*. The two others are Willy Brandt and Bruno Kreisky.

One point on which the party brothers [Peres and Palme] disagreed was the Palestinian problem. Olof Palme was one of the many people who recognized the Jewish people's right to self-determination as enshrined by the United Nations when the State of Israel was founded but who could not understand how the same right could be denied the Palestinian people. Can Peres explain this difference?

He was very irritated by the question, but then he said something about 22 Arab states that enjoy self-determination and about a tiny area about which there is disagreement.

"Egypt, the United States and Israel reached agreement in the Camp David agreement that the Palestinians should participate in the determination of their future," Peres said. "But the West Bank does not belong to them alone, ownership is disputed, and a settlement can only be reached through negotiations."

But what does he think in principle about the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

"You cannot make a difference between people and country," Peres said. "Self-determination applies just as much, and even more, to the country as to the people. In addition, self-determination can only be achieved in surroundings of peace and freedom. As long as shootings and murders are going on, it is impossible."

Another questions that Peres is bound to meet from his Swedish party colleagues is about living conditions for the Palestinians in the occupied areas. He and his colleagues are fond of talking about their efforts to improve "the quality of life" on the West Bank and in Gaza. How does this square with the fact that expulsions and administrative arrests (arrests without trials or sentences) have increased dramatically on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip in his time as prime minister? At the same time as the so-called "family reunification" has almost ceased?

"After stopping settlement on the West Bank when I came to office, we were hit by a wave of terrorist activities," Peres explained. "We found that the use of emergency legislation, which is within the framework of the law, was the best way to stop the terrorism."

It is true that new settlements have been stopped during Peres' time, but, at the same time, 9,000 new settlers have moved to existing settlements on the West Bank and 5,000 new dwellings are being built in these "old" settlements. How does Shimon Peres explain this?

"We cannot halt life in midstream," he said. "The extension of already existing settlements is something on which we agreed in the Camp David agreement," he replied.

How is the so-called peace process. What are Prime Minister Peres' hopes now after King Husayn of Jordan's dramatic speech and after the reactions on the West Bank? The king received no support on the West Bank; the Palestinians more or less unanimously backed PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

"We are waiting for the dust to settle," Shimon Peres, the man of inexhaustible patience, replied. "Then, we will return to the path of negotiations; there is no alternative. Nor do I take the first reactions from the West Bank as final. They were a shock reaction. But what was clear was that even the king, who was trying to negotiate with the PLO, realized that it is impossible to reach agreement with that organization. What was also shown was that even when the PLO is not engaging in terrorist activity — which is something that they do — they themselves become the targets of more extreme groups. We have done what we could; we have acceded to the majority of King Husayn's wishes, but we cannot force anyone to the negotiating table."

But Shimon Peres is still not the sort of man who gives up.

"I will not cease to work and act in the direction of peace," he said in conclusion.

This work will probably begin this Friday [14 March], when he meets many of the world's leaders, who could help to revitalize the peace process in the Middle East.

Shamir Briefs Knesset Committee on Tabah Talks

TA171235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Today the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee debated Tabah affairs with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports to us now from the committee::

Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir mainly reviewed the development of relations with Egypt and the Tabah talks. Progress was achieved on several matters in these talks, but the dispute over the main points has remained. For example, he said that no agreement has been achieved between the two countries on the text of the question that is to be submitted to the arbiters.

The Egyptians are demanding that the arbiters be named and be empowered to determine the location of the border stones in Tabah, while Israel is proposing that the arbiters be consulted on where the border stones should be placed. There is also a fierce dispute over the question of conciliation. As is well known, Israel is demanding a stage of conciliation before the arbitration, but Egypt is proposing conciliation between the two sides in talks between them and not via the arbiters. But the countries are also in dispute over the status of the country that loses in the arbitration over the disputed area.

In addition to the Tabah question and the meeting between the directors general, the matter of normalization between the two countries was also discussed. Yitzhaq Shamir said that he believes the majority of the Israeli nation wants peace, but this is not the case in Egypt. It is inconceivable that the Tabah question be discussed without settling normalization between the two countries, he said. He said there would also be changes on this matter, but relations between the two countries must not be frozen. He quoted officials in Egypt who have admitted that while the decisive majority in Israel wants peace, this is not the case in Egypt.

This is where the committee debate began, with the speakers split over the question of relations with Egypt and the ways to improve them. The committee chairman, Abba Eban, asked for what he called the ceiling of expectations to be lowered, while Knesset Member Yosi Sarid said it is now clear that the Tabah issue is procrastination. Many more years will pass and nothing will happen; peace will simply be suppressed and eliminated. He attacked the internal situation in the Likud, in Herut, which will just make it more difficult to stabilize peace with Egypt, and to this Dan Meridor said: The time has not yet come for a big fuss to be made over this.

'No Logic' in U.S. Suggestion

TA180628 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Benny Morris]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shamir yesterday said there was no logic in U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's suggestion that the Israeli-Egyptian committee discussing the procedure for solving the Tabah dispute end its deliberations by April 1.

But a senior Israeli official involved in the talks told *THE JERUSALEM POST* that most of the Tabah compromise is already written. The two countries are due to resume negotiations tomorrow in Cairo.

Shamir made his remark during an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. He added that, instead of suggesting deadlines, the U.S. ought to persuade Egypt to implement the commitments it has already made on bilateral issues such as normalization of relations.

Shamir complained that the Egyptians are promising progress towards normalization only after the two countries have signed the compromise, as the joint document governing the arbitration process is officially designated.

The foreign minister also said he told Murphy last week that Israel would not give up its demand that the stage of conciliation over Tabah precede arbitration.

Shamir To Reject Territorial Compromise While Premier

TA171841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir says that if any Arab country offers territorial compromise after he becomes prime minister, he will reject it. He was speaking to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Labor Party Knesset Member Shevah Weiss asked Vice Premier Shamir: In the light of the glee which you and your colleagues display when the peace initiatives of the Labor Alignment run into difficulties, what will your peace policy be after the rotation, when you are prime minister? Shamir replied: I am not in the habit of rejoicing at other people's misfortunes. When a Likud representative will head the government, he will act in accordance with its guidelines. If any Arab power came and offered territorial compromise, I should not accept it, but I would see it as a sign of growing flexibility. Nor would I ever give any encouragement to the idea of an international conference, because I regard it as a threat to Israel. [end recording]

Sharon Proposal To Split Herut Positions Rejected

TA180533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Vice Premier Yitzhaq Shamir met for several hours last night with his supporters in the battle for control of the Herut Party. The ministers did not raise new ideas but declared everything must be done to preserve the unity of the party. They rejected a proposal by Ari'el Sharon to solve the crisis by splitting the three main party positions among Shamir, Sharon, and David Levi.

Abba Eban Invited To Visit Egypt for Talks

TA171537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Abba Eban, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, will visit Egypt next month at the invitation of the Egyptian Government. Knesset Member [MK] Eban will hold talks with government leaders in Cairo, and will also give a lecture at the Diplomatic Center in the Egyptian capital. Our correspondent in the Knesset, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, points out that the invitation to MK Eban was extended by Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Israel.

E. Jerusalem Firm Warned Against Nonpayment of Debts

TA171646 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The energy minister has warned of the grave consequences of failure by the East Jerusalem Electric Coropration to repay its debts. Reporting to the Knesset on his ministry's acrivity, Minister Shahal said that the East Jerusalem Corporation must understand that it is impossible to prevent the Israel Electricity Company from collecting its dues. He claimed that the East

Jerusalem company has not overhauled or maintained its antiquated and dilapidated installations. It purchases most of the electricity from Israel, and has in fact become a middleman.

The energy minister disclosed that he was prepared to accept a proposal raised by the East Jerusalem company that a joint board of directors be set up for that company and its Israeli counterpart. Furthermore, he also accepted its offer of repayment of debts by way of electricity supply from Jordan to Isreal. However, he claimed, the company directors changed their minds and retracted the offers at the last moments.

AL-FAJR Editorial Views Murphy's Mideast Tour

TA171626 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Mar 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Pessimism" and "Optimism" in the U.S. Thinking]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who was in Tunis, then in Cairo, and then recently in Tel Aviv, announced that he is "somewhat pessimistic." Despite the fact that we are pessimistic about the entire U.S. position, as it has been and as it is today, we are not aware at what time Murphy was "somewhat optimistic" in order that he might announce limited pessimism in the current stage.

The U.S. position has been established on the basis of rejecting recognition of the PLO, and on ignoring all the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. Despite all the shuttle trips by the U.S. envoy himself to the region's capitals, this intransigent U.S. position has remained unchanged. The Palestinian position, as well, has remained clear, explicit, and decisive in confronting U.S. maneuvers and conspiracies in this connection. What optimism was there in order that later on there might be pessimism?

Perhaps the United States was counting on the breakup and collapse of the special Palestinian-Jordanian relations following King Husayn's speech on 19 February, and consequently on the suspension of political coordination between Jordan and the PLO as a new source of optimism for its envoy Richard Murphy, based on which he would immediately make preparations to bypass the PLO completely by means of Jordan and negotiations with Israel.

However, this U.S. opportunistic optimism was not warranted, as the PLO's recent statement affirmed the special Palestinian-Jordanian relations and left the door open to a new and pleasant stage in these relations.

Therefore, it is this statement, insisting on our inalienable rights, on the need for the commitment to these rights until their implementation, and on the requirement of a joint political Arab move to confront the problems and difficulties of the current stage, that imposed pessimism though only "somewhat" — on Richard Murphy during his current trip.

May this pessimism continue as long as the U.S. Administration remains in its current intransigent position.

AL-QUDS Views U.S., Israeli Policies on Palestinians

TA171255 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
14 Mar 86 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Policy of Scorn"]

[Text] Richard Murphy's visit to the Middle East has ended and he returned to his country without paying a visit to the Jordanian capital, as had been anticipated. If this is proof of anything it is proof that the U.S. efforts to obtain the support, backing, and participation of the main Arab parties to impose the "peace" that it desires, and which does not take into consideration the aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian people, have come to an end.

We are on the verge of a new stage in which the United States and Israel will first try to impose settlements on the Palestinian people and later on the Arabs, without involving them. These settlements will try to reinforce the fait accompli through the implementation of unilateral self-rule with Israeli participation.

The United States and Israel have realized that the Palestinian people are not trying to change names or perform cosmetic surgery on the topograpical form of the occupation, but are calling for a comprehensive, just, and durable peace that guarantees all the parties in the conflict, including the Palestinian people, the right to live in security and dignity within their own states.

At present, the United States and Israel are promoting the concept of improving the quality of life, transfer of authority, and rehabilitation of the economic sectors, while leaving the occupation as it is.

We ask: How can the Palestinian people in the occupied territories advance themselves economically, socially, and humanly when they do not see before them any options except the option of a fait accompli represented in continued occupation? This option has been rejected by our people not because of our love of rejection but because we want to be saved from the perpetuation of the state of no peace and no war that the United States and Israel are endeavoring to reinforce by proposing old plans, although this time in a new formula.

What we in the occupied territories regret is the discord and fragmentation in the Arab arena — a discord that constitutes a green light for the continuation of a policy of intransigence and scorn pursued by the United States and Israel toward the Palestinian rights in particular and the Arab rights in general.

Jerusalem Analyzes Syrian Media's Attitude on Israel

JN171700 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1440 GMT 17 Mar 86

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: One manifestation that is reflected in the Syrian news media from time to time is the media's reiteration that Al-Asad's Syria does not fear or submit to threats and that it is ready to face any threat regardless of the costs and sacrifices. This manifestation was again reflected in the

Syrian media last week following President al-Asad's 8 March speech, which was full of threats against Israel, extremist stands, and negative rejection.

In its editorial last Thursday, the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* said: Israeli threats do not scare us just as they did not scare us in the past.

Since the absolute truth is that not one Israeli official has threatened Syria in the present or in the near and distant past, one has to ask: What is behind the Syrian media's talk of threats and the lack of any fear of these threats? This question becomes even more relevant when we know that Israel has often stated in the most unequivocal terms that it is not interested in creating tension or entering into any confrontation.

Israel has often asserted that it is not interested in war and that it does not want war with Syria or any other state. It only wants peaceful coexistence with the Arab states and peoples. These Israeli assurances do not stem from a position of weakness, but from the firm conviction that wars do not solve problems between peoples and that negotiation and mutual understanding are the best and most honorable ways to solve international problems and disputes.

Still, the observer is at a loss as to now he can describe the Syrian media's constant talk of threats at a time when Israel has not made any such threats, whether in open or concealed form. But if the observer is confused as to whether to call this manifestation funny, ridiculous, or tragic, he can, no doubt, attribute it to any one or a combination of the following factors and reasons:

1. Syrian media men seem to imagine that their verbal antics can present the Damascus rulers as heroes. But they forget that such propaganda can only portray them and their rulers as a bunch of Don Quixotes charging upon imaginary windmills.

2. It could be that the Damascus rulers believe that the language of threats is the only language to use in dealings between states and also between rulers and their peoples. This interpretation is substantiated by the fact that the history of the current Damascus rulers is full of threats that they have made in all directions. Al-Asad and his defense minister, Mustafa Talas, have taken turns in making such threats. He threatens to chop off his enemy's fingers and the defense minister threatens to burn what was left of those fingers. We may not be far from the truth if we say that not a single Arab ruler or Lebanese leader has been spared the Damascus rulers' threats, which were made for the sake of intimidation or for sheer political and financial extortion.

3. The Damascus rulers imagine and believe that they are being threatened at all times and from all directions inside and outside Syria. Their fear of threats is real, which is why they seem to suffer from a persecution phobia — a psychological state of mind that is very common among those who engage in terrorism and blackmail. In such a case, may God help them and the Syrian people, who are being ruled by steel and fire and are subjected to all kinds of oppression and intellectual and physical terrorism.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid Meets With UAE Official

LD161729 Algiers APS in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 16 Mar (APS) — The president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN party, Chadli Bendjedid, received today at the Presidency Shaykh Dr Sultan Ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council of the UAE and the rule of Sharjah. Talks were held in-cameria then were extended to include the two delegations. Those who took part in the talks on the Algerian side were Dr Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi, Political Bureau member and minister of foreign affairs, Larbi Belkheir, member of the Central Committee and director of the Presidential Office. And in the guest delegation was Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sultan al-Qasimi, the minister of state at the federal government and chairman of the oil department in the Emirate of Sharjah.

Senegalese Minister Ends Visit to Algiers

LD152228 Algiers APS in Arabic 1735 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 15 Mar [APS] — Medoume Fall, Senegalese minister of the armed forces and special envoy of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, left Algiers this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Algeria.

During his stay, the Senegalese envoy conveyed a message from President Diouf to President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN Party.

LIBYA

Continuing Reportage on Anti-Imperialism Conference

Call for Hitting U.S. Interests

LD171903 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpts] About 4 and 1/2 years ago — August 1981 to be precise — more that 240 revolutionary organizations and liberation movements from about 80 countries, fighting for the final emancipation, held their first conference and decided to choose the Jamahiriyah as an international center for combatting imperialism, Zionism, racism, reactionism, and fascism.

During the 4 years that followed the first conference, big developments took place in the confrontation front between the forces of imperialism, spearheaded by the United States and the international revolutionary forces, with the Jamahiriyah at their forefront. The imperialist United States has exhausted all its forces and means, means of propaganda, intelligence, and war in a light attempt which was directed against the Jamahiriyah in its capacity as the beating heart of international liberation movements, and which provides anything in support of the question of freedom everywhere; and in its capacity as the only Arab country where the voice of justice is heard and which calls for integral Arab unity and for armed struggle against Zionism, the imperialist presence in the region, the liberation of occupied Palestine from the river to the sea.

The responsibility shouldered by this extraordinary grouping of international revolutionary organizations and liberation movements, which are assembled today on the soil of the Jamahiriyah — the international platform for combatting imperialism, Zionism, reactionism, racism, and fascism — is a collosal responsibility which is epitomized in putting an end to U.S. arrogance. This can be achieved by hitting U.S. interests everywhere, by destroying its monopolizing institutions and companies which are spread world-wide, if the United States tries to carry out its hostile threat against the Libyan Arab people.

There is no doubt that this big number of international revolutionary movements and liberation organizations, which came from more than 80 countries to attend their second international conference, are capable of achieving that if they decide to do so. The mad U.S. bull, no matter how big and strong it may be, will succumb when stabs are directed against it from everywhere. Any stab in the body of this mad bull, even a small one, will have an impact and effect.

Will the Second International Conference of the International Center for resisting Imperialism, Zionism, Reactionism Racism, And Fascism be the beginning of the action to slaughter and bury the mad U.S. bull? This will be answered during the coming days by the battle of escalating the counterattack against imperialism, Zionism, racism, fascism and reactionism.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Imperialism

LD152000 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arabic Homeland in Arabic 1813 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the second conference of the International Platform for Resisting Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, Reaction, and Fascism in Tripoli — live on nationwide radio and television]

[Text] Brothers, I stand before you to extend greetings and to hail your tenacious will, which executed the great universal and international action on 28 August 1981. It was on this date that the people struggling for freedom and the living revolutionary forces throughout the world and in all its continents decided to hold a conference of solidarity with the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who faced the threat of aggression. Our people are regarded as the vanguard of those who are struggling for freedom and as the victim of the forces of aggression who want to devour them first and then go on to devour other small nations struggling for freedom.

The event which took place in August 1981 has become an international movement. This movement has institutionalized the fight for freedom and the collective struggle against the enemies of freedom — imperialism, fascism, reaction, Zionism, and racism. This movement of solidarity has caused the imperialists to reconsider their calculations and to retreat from carrying out an aggression against the Libyan Arab people. As I asserted at that conference, the Libyan Arab people have displayed a firm resolve to resist aggression. I told you then that the United States would not be able to defeat the Libyan people, although it can annihilate them. If they die, then they will die standing up and not kneeling down. We have not violated this pledge. [applause and shouts in English of "Down, Down, U.S.A."]

However, the Americans regrettably turned to another small nation which was living in peace and security, and devoured it. I am referring to the people of Grenada. The occupation of Grenada was not prevented by the United Nations or the UN Security Council. There was no justification for such an action. When the imperialists see a weak people, they assassinate them and occupy their land. We cannot expect to see official resistance by governments against such aggression. We also do not expect justification for this aggression. Imperialist aggression takes place without justifications.

The occupation of Grenada, the removal of the revolutionary regime based on the new [word indistinct] movement, and the assassination of our dear brother and friend martyr Maurice Bishop [applause] has alarmed all small nations and caused them to live in terror. This is the result of the official terrorism which has become an established policy of the United States, Zionism, and racism. We cannot allow this incident to pass easily. It is an alarm bell for freedom everywhere and for the security and safety of peoples within their own borders.

Grenada, a country of 100,000 people, could in no way have constituted a threat to U.S. imperialism and its 200 million people. [chanting in English of "Down, Down U.S.A."] This event might initially be regarded as a victory for imperialism. However, it actually established a new international movement. All small nations which are the target of imperialism must unite. They will feel the (?strength) of unity in an international front against imperialism and [words indistinct].

Imperialism [chantings of slogans], imperialism may think it has triumphed in this sinful action. However, it has actually rallied those people who have sensed that their fate might be the same as that of the people of Grenada. They feel the need to unite in an international front to fight imperialism.

The conference held on 28 August 1981 to express solidarity with the Jamahiriyah's people also began a new chapter in the struggle of peoples for freedom everywhere in the world. That conference later turned to this collective work. Your preparatory committee convened on 21 February 1982 in order to get ready for an international conference that would undertake a collective struggle against imperialism, reaction, fascism, racism, and Zionism. [chantings of slogans]

Indeed, the founding conference was held on 15 June of that same year, 1982. It included the forces of peoples struggling for freedom and hostile to imperialism, racism, Zionism, fascism, and reaction. The second such conference of these forces is being convened today. New forces have joined us in this collective struggle and are now attending. These forces were not present at the first conference. We expect that other forces will attend the third, fourth, and any subsequent conferences [applause] in order to broaden the anti-imperialist front.

We welcome today the representatives of all Kurdish groups in the world [applause]; representatives of all the green [word indistinct] movements in the world [applause] representatives of all red Indian groups [applause] from North America, South America, and the surrounding islands [applause]; representatives of the blacks in the United States, Canada, South America, and Britain [applause]; representatives of fighting revolutionary movements in the French colonies in the world [applause]; vanguards of the international revolutionary committees movements from all parts of the world [applause]; and the secretaries of internationalist basic people's congresses. [applause]

We are sorry to say we have received a report from the 19 April Movement in Colombia that our friend and comrade Alvaro Fayad, general commander of the 19 April Movement, was killed in a battle in the past 2 days. If this report is confirmed, and in any case, we have to stand up and salute him and we glorify him. [chants of "Long Live Al-Qadhdhafi"]

This will only make us more determined to continue the collective struggle and double our efforts in the fight against the fascists in Latin America — agents of imperialism and agents of the United states, the enemy of the peoples and the leader of international terrorism and the barbaric and savage administration which relies on nothing but the law of terrorism and the law of the jungle. It is suffering from the madness of force and holds the rights of man in contempt; it discriminates against human beings in everything, so much so that it places black citizens on a level lower than that of mankind.

The fascists will not enjoy contentment and they may be assured that if they killed our comrade Fayad, the fight against them will escalate. And we swear that we shall avenge him by killing not just one individual, but by killing fascism in Latin America. [applause and shouting of slogans]

As you see brothers, imperialism, fascism, Zionism, racism, and reaction — these enemies will not refrain of their own free will from assassinating the leaders of the masses and occupying the territories of others. [patriotic singing]

They will not be deterred willingly by themselves and they are bent on the physical liquidation of the leaders of the masses. They are determined to destroy freedom everywhere, to continue the unjust occupation of others' lands; they are totally reckless with the rights of small peoples to live on earth in peace and freedom. Imperialism and the forces allied with it constitute a serious threat to the lives of all of us as peoples wishing to live in peace and freedom on earth. Imperialism and its dirty lackey allies are determined to conquer peoples and to extend imperialist domination in all continents of the world. The lives of small peoples are indeed seriously threatened by the danger of imperialism. Zionism in palestine, racism in south Africa, fascism in Latin America, and reactionism in Arab countries and other parts of the world are nothing but the instruments of imperialism. [shouting of slogans]

With full feeling of responsibility and without excitement, we now say it is true that small peoples are threatened in their homes — their existence, and their security by imperialism and its allies. Brothers, at this international gathering which has brought together active forces from all continents of the world which have felt this threat and are united in this world internationalist front, I say that this danger which is threatening us — this strong threat from imperialism and its allies — forces us, in the context of self-defense, to defend our existence on earth and under the sun; forces us to create the internationalist front on the world level to confront this danger. Imperialism and its allies are the common enemy of all those struggling for freedom. I believe that you feel this sentiment in depth, sincerity, and seriousness; a matter which has promtped you to come here. [sounds of chanting]

Brothers, this danger makes it imperative for us to change this action into a world effective and militant force in order to confront this danger. The small nations are no longer confident of their existence because of this filthy alliance. Peaceful and ordinary human beings everywhere in the world are being chased by this evil which is hostile to mankind and which is fighting them for their food. This is seen in the economic warfare against Libya by imperialism, in the military blockade of Nicaragua, the armed and high-handed and unjustified invasion of Grenada, the constant threat against the nations of Latin America which are fighting for freedom, the constant threat against the Iranian revolution, and the killing and destitution of the Palestinian and Lebanese people [applause] the constant threat against the security of Syria, the constant threat against the stability and independence of Angola, Mozambique, and all the states which lie on the borders of South Africa. [applause] Denying the people of Namibia their independence and freedom on their soil, threatening all hopes for peace in the Mediterranean — the small peoples who live on the Mediterranean islands and the peoples of the Mediterranean countries have been trying to heal their wounds after World War II and to rebuild what was destroyed by the warring forces, so that trade and culture will revive and so that the economy will revive, and peace will be strengthened.

However, imperialism, its presence, policies, and aspirations, are completely contradictory with this hope and these wishes. Right now, U.S. fleets are making noise in the Mediterranean, trying to threaten this sea's peace and the security of this sea's peoples, and to transform it from a sea of trade, peace, culture, and stability into a sea of destruction and war and the destruction of all the peoples overlooking the Mediterranean and the small peoples who live on the Mediterranean islands. Even international detente, which mankind applauded, has not achieved anything as far as we small peoples, are concerned — nothing has been achieved. Perhaps sometimes it may seem to us that detente is at the expense of small peoples. Indeed, it would be frightening if a war were to take place between the nuclear superpowers. It has not taken place yet, but has war stopped on other people's territory? No not at all! Therefore, we, the small peoples reject any detente at our expense. We will not benefit from the absence of confrontation between the superpowers when the quid pro quo is to sacrifice the other peoples. [chanting of slogans]

There is no intention whatsoever to stop the Gulf war. The arms traders of the states that have been calling publically for stopping the war have been sending weapons to the fascist regime in Baghdad, a regime that is hostile to the Iraqi people and which has thrown the Iraqi Army in the couldron of this war, a war they do not want. The Iraqi Army is ready to engage in a war against Zionism and against imperialism. [shouts: "Down With Imperialism"]

The threat of war against the peoples of Latin America, the peoples of the Arab nation, and the peoples of Africa which border on South Africa has not ended. We cannot at all accept the assurance of peace between the major powers in return for sacrificing the small nations. [applause] The physical liquidation of our revolutionary leaders continues. The occupation of our territories continues. The chasing of our masses continues: the Palestinian people are hunted down with U.S. planes; the Lebanese people are hit by U.S. planes and ships; the Kurdish nation is torn up and the kurds are being persecuted and their villages razed. [applause]

The people in South Africa, the 20 million blacks who are the real owners of the land — they have been denied the right to exist, to be independent, and to enjoy their rights as human beings over their soil. They are being persecuted by a handful of white racists. This handful is supported by U.S. imperialism. The United States refused to impose any sanctions against racism in South Africa. Why? It is because racism in South Africa implements U.S. policy, which is barbaric and hostile to the blacks, and which regards the black race as being less than human. [applause]

Brothers [chanting], we have to convey [al-nunqil] the forces of collective struggle with our people in South Africa, who are being subjected to continued killings, without mercy, by a handful of white colonialists [words indistinct], who are supported [chanting], supported by the United States. [chanting] One of our forces that constitutes the internationalist front hostile to imperialism, racism, etc is the black people in South Africa, regarding whom I have addressed a message to African youth. African youth throughout Africa are prepared to volunteer so that we can fight racism in South Africa so that we can destroy it. [chanting]

We, the people struggling for freedom which constitute this internationalist front, categorically do not recognize any white in the southern part of the African Continent; South Africa belongs to Africa and Africa belongs to Africans; let them take their hands off Africa. [chanting] We do not recognize any white presence in the African Continent. We, at this gathering, must decide to fight side by side with our oppressed people in South Africa; we must decide to fight with our colonized people in Namibia; we must decide to fight collectively to liberate Grenada and destroy the symbols of U.S. imperialist installed there and return [chanting] the forces of the New Jewel Movement in Grenada. However small, the people of Grenada have the right to choose the system they want, and to live in freedom, dignity and security on their island. Brothers, we must all stand with the people of Nicaragua against the blatant insolent threat from the United States. [chanting]

Brothers, we should all stand by the people of Nicaragua against the blatant and harsh threats from the United States. [applause] We should strengthen Cuba's steadfastness in confronting U.S. imperialism. [applause] We should put our hand in the hand of our brothers, friends, and comrades, Castro and Ortega, and their comrades in Nicaragua and Cuba. [applause and shouting of slogans) We should also decide to fight alongside our comrades the revolutionaries of Central America and Latin America against fascism and reactionism which are supported by U.S. imperialism. [applause]

We must be ready to fight side by side with our Palestinian people, the victims of Zionism which is the puppet and base of the United States. [chanting of slogans lauding Palestine] Our people in Palestine are subjected to mass annihilation inside and outside Palestine. Mass prisons inside occupied Palestine are built by Zionism which is insolently supported by the United States with all the means of destruction. Mass prisons are built for all the active forces of our Palestinian people in the occupied territory. American aircraft, piloted by pilots of dual American and Israeli nationality, are hounding the Palestinian people outside Palestine in their camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and even in Tunisia. In addition, international Zionism assassinates Palestinian revolutionary leaders wherever they are. It kills them in their homes in Beirut, it assassinates them in Europe, and chases them everywhere.

The Nuremburg trials of Nazis accused of the mass annihilation of Jews defined mass assassination as genocide. This definition applies today, but the other way around, to what Zionism is doing to the Palestinian people because genocide is the mass killing of the members of a specific group, or making them homeless, or seizing their property, or attacking them physically or morally, or compelling them to follow a specific way of life which would lead to their extinction, or kidnapping their children. All of these definitions apply now to what Zionism is doing in Palestine against [words indistinct].

Sympathy for the Israelis will continue after they have become Nazis and have done to the Arabs what Hitler did to them. But the arrogant and the power-mad, the U.S. rulers and the other imperialist powers, or the agent-followers of the United States will not listen. However, those who do listen to this are — and we say it for their sake — the small peoples whose fate will be like the fate of the Palestinian people, as long as collective struggle on an internationalist front like this is not created for resistance against this common enemy.

The dynamic forces present here in front of me in the second conference of the forces struggling against imperialism, Zionism, racism, facism, and reaction will listen to these words. In addition to our Palestinian people, there is the Lebanese people on whom liquidation is now being visited by order of the United States to its instrument, Zionism in Palestine, by the destruction of the Middle East peoples around Palestine until a population imbalance occurs which enables Zionism to attract 25 million citizens from other countries who embrace Judaism and force them to live in the Middle East to enable the rise of a Zionist empire. And thus the United States gurantees its influence in the Middle East and the protection of its interests. The United States plans to seize the oil-fields in this region in the coming years by using the Israelis. The United States will sacrifice those who believe that they are its Arab friends when the opportunity comes for Zionism to take over the oil-fields and the reins of power which secure American interests in the Middle East [words indistinct]

We have to decide in this internationalist meeting to start collective struggle in its concrete form. We decided on it in principle and in theory in our first conference, and now we have to lay down the practical arrangements, we have to undertake collective struggle. Nobody can prevent us from undertaking collective struggle in any part of our homeland because we are a peace-loving people who want to live in security on their lands. On their own, that is, no people can face alone the attack of imperialism and its filthy alliance.

Therefore, in order to survive, for self-defence, and so as to secure victory, we are obliged to fight collectively. If we wage a collective struggle in South Africa, with SWAPO in Namibia, alongside the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, and all the states threatened by South Africa's racism; with our Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, and Libyan peoples; in Nicaragua, Cuba, and with the peoples of Latin America, Central America and South America; with the people of Grenada — if we decide to undertake a collective struggle, we will inevitably triumph, and no one can ever protest such a method. This is our duty, our right, and we would be defending our existence.

No one in the world can prevent us from engaging in collective struggle against the common enemy; he who wants to protest the founding of the [words indistinct] of collective struggle and collective fighting against this alliance, then he would have to come and liquidate this alliance on our behalf, and we would not therefore be obliged to undertake collective struggle. [applause]

When aggression is committed against Grenada and the latter is occupied, and no one can retrieve Grenada's freedom, how then can anyone protest or offer advice on how Grenada should be recovered by collective struggle? Let the people of Grenada become the ally even of the devil in order to retrieve their freedom.

When the Libyan Jamahiriyah is threatened by U.S. fleets, in its own territory, and no one in the world, except this small force of our peoples which came and responded to this threat — and the Libyan people are asked to show restraint; when Angola is subjected to aggression and its territory is repeatedly invaded, and no one comes, except the Cuban forces, to fight alongside the Angolan people, and Angola is asked to show restrain while its territory is subjected to fighting and invasion; when the ports of Nicaragua are mined and a military and economic blockade is imposed on it, this country is asked to show restrain tso as to avoid a threat to world peace; Libya is asked to show restraint otherwise it would clash with the U.S. 6th Fleet and a world war would break out; Cuba, whose territory is partly occupied by the United States, is asked to show restrain and not to attack this base on its territory; when France and the United States enter into a collective colonialism against the collective struggle in Chad in order to colonize it and turn it into a base for joint French-U.S. imperialism, and the friends of Chad and even the Chadian revolution are asked to show restraint — well, in such cases what does restraint mean? It would mean capitulation to these enemies, with us surrendering our territories and necks, and they trampling our dignity under foot. All that for peace, stability, and for providing an opportunity for war. [sentence as heard]

What kind of peace and stability is this? Peace at the expense of our honor and at the expense of our independence? Never! We have to decide and they have to control themselves and remain inside their borders. The imperialists must remain inside their borders. As for us, we shall not control our temper and shall not control (?ourselves) in defending ourselves. [chanting]

Last January and February (?we had) a military confrontation with the United States opposite the Gulf of Sidra. The United States amassed more than (?200) aircraft on board. This amassing was carried out against the small Libyan people, and the whole world was watching, listening and [word indistinct] January and February. No one was able to stand against this huge fleet. These carriers made threatening sorties and during the two maneuvers there were 3,000 sorties in which more than 200 aircraft took part. Two of the carriers were carrying fighter planes and the third carrier was carrying helicopters. This fleet was composed of [word indistinct], destroyers, and warships and was supported by landing and supply ships, intelligence, and radio jamming. Libya, on its own, from the direct military point of view, stood against this barbaric imperialist campaign. The Libyan Air Force recorded more than 1,500 sorties over the Gulf of Sidra to confront these U.S. sorties. About 20 direct interception operations took place which (?nearly led to) fighting between the Libyan Air Force and the U.S. imperialist forces. Libya adopted a firm, declared, and courageous stance before the world. The 32.30 parallel, which is the beginning of the Gulf of Sidra is considered the line of death; we are actually prepared to die for it. The United States, during the past 2 months and despite all their air and naval attempts, did not succeed in getting close to this parallel because it is aware that this line is the line of death. I told you at the conference of solidarity and at the preparatory committee — the sentence I mentioned at the beginning of this speech — namely that the United States cannot defeat the Libyans, but can annihilate them with its atomic bombs and fleets. There is a difference between defeat and annihilation. [chanting of slogans]

At the time when this confrontation was still not at an end, French troops landed along the southern borders of Libya in Chad. The military reinforcements for the agents of America and France in Ndjamena have doubled. The reactionary alliance against the revolution in Iran continues. The Zionist onslalught against the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian peoples continues. The United States' threats against the people of the DPRK and against the people of Nicaragua and the peoples of Central America and Latin America continues.

In this situation, self-control must be exercised. We should restrain ourselves. Suppose we did not exercise self-control and did not restrain ourselves, what would happen? War would break out, peace would collapse, trade would be threatened, and the lines of communication would be threatened in vital areas of the world. What would happen after this? The aggressors would lose and the capitalists would lose and the capitalist companies would lose the multinational companies which exploit us and which exhaust the resources of these nations, because the the airlines and the planes belong to these capitalist companies and countries. Their peace is at the expense of our nations. We do not enjoy peace, neither in America, Africa, nor Asia. The threat continues. The killing, imprisonment, and massacres in the Sabra and Shatila mass prisons in Palestine, massacres in South Africa — the threat continues against independent states, denying the right of the people of Namibia to independence, denying the right to independence to the people of New Caledonia and Martinique by French imperialism.

France wants to extend its borders to (?Reunion) and to Caledonia in the Pacific and to Martinique in the Atlantic. They talk about peace and they demand — or rather they believe that they have the right to — a (?permanent) seat at the Security Council. [applause] How can this aggressor, who is tampering with the world, be given a permanent seat at the Security Council and the right of veto? It should be expelled from the United Nations.

One of the serious matters which has frightened them is this meeting. This meeting of ours has frightened and terrorized these tyrants because it (?was) a precondition for this meeting — which must be approved as a result and a decision and a principle of this meeting — that these nations should reconsider these dynamic forces which will shape the future of the world, should reconsider the United Nations and its Charter and all its institutions because in the United Nations there are governments which are united against the nations. [sentence as heard] As for the nations, they are represented here and they are the ones which (?stand up) and confront the United States on Libyan soil and which are (?meeting) at this international conference. The UN Charter should be looked into again. It gives the right of veto against resolutions of all the states to a state which is a member of the Security Council and which enjoys this right of veto. We, as nations, do not accept this. We, as nations which represent the vast majority on earth, do not accept this hegemony and this haughtiness and arrogance. We will resist it with all our means until the will of the small nations triumphs.

If the Security Council is meant to be a place for permanent seats for the big powers, we do not object to these big powers which occupy the five seats forming a security council of their own. They can then veto one another and fight one another and America can use the veto against the other four. We shall not interfere in this. [applause and shouts in English "Down With the Veto"]

Yes, down with the veto. As for us, the nations which pay the price in all the wars and whose existence is threatened today, we are the fuel of the wars — the first and the second world wars. This land in which you are meeting, most of the battles in the Second World War were fought on it. Libya was not a member of the Allies or a member of the Axis. But the Axis and the Allies fought on Libyan soil. They destroyed our homes and they killed us; they killed our livestock and they planted mines in this soil — these mines are still here now. They hindered the building of roads and development. We paid a high price in a war which concerned the Allies and the Axis.

The people of Pland were raided by the German hordes unexpectedly and without justification, withour prior warning and without any offence having been committed by the Polish people. The armies invaded it [words indistinct] Poland (?was taken). They swept into Warsaw. Nothing of it remained except the word Warsaw engraved on a marble plaque. This small nation paid a costly price: 4,000 Nazi planes attacked it. All our nations have paid the price, and we are threatened once again. We are paying the price daily with our nerves because of this official terrorism which is being imposed on us by imperialism, facism, and racism.

The Syrians, the Lebanese, the Jordanians, and all the Arab peoples are threatened daily. They live under official terrorism which is imposed by Zionism with U.S. means. The African nations live under official terrorism. Every day they expect a barbaric raid by the racists of South Africa on their (?homes).

The Libyan people here live under the constant threat of the U.S. 6th Fleet. The peoples of Latin America and Central America are daily threatened. [words indistinct] Today we are paying the price with our security and stability and nerves.

In war, we shall pay the price with our lives, our blood, our homes and our property. I am saying this in order to reach a conclusion, namely, these peoples who are paying the price of the cold war and the hot war have the right to work out the guarantees for world peace because it concerns them, because they are victims. We are the instrument of peace; we (?want) to establish an internationalist security council and establish a true united nations and not [words indistinct]. [chanting]

We must threaten all governments to [word indistinct] the governments represented now at the present United Nations, at the Security Council. All these movements here in front of me can put strong pressure on these governments to formulate [tusigh] the United Nations to become what we, the active forces in the world, want. If these governments failed [words indistinct] our threat and resounding yell, we shall begin to establish a new intrernationalist organization which truly represents the peoples, which truly represents the peace-loving nations, which does not represent the imperialists and world (?police) who want to impose sanctions on us. The Security Council will face strong resistance from now on because it is a U.S. Security Council. This Council has broken down and will not, as it has in the past, be able to take any steps in the future in favor of any of the oppressed peoples and in favor of any of our issues which the United States does not agree with because at events like this the United States will use its right of veto and the Security Council resolutions will be scrapped. The United Nations General Assembly, which is supposed to to be where the United Nations meet, has no will of its own now, it is faced by the United States will. The U.S. representative at the Security Council scraps a resolution issued by the United Nations General Assembly. In this way, we, the small peoples and the strugglers for freedom have no confidence as of now in the United Nations General Assembly in its present form. We do not consider the Security Council to be an international Security Council but a U.S. Security Council, decayed by the U.S. will and a hinderance to the will of the Arab peoples. Consequently, we have the right to establish a truly international internationalist organization that will protect peace. We can muster enough forces to enable us to send [it] to any part of the world to keep peace and to prevent any war.

The UN force now is only used to protect the Israelis. Where are the UN forces at the moment? They are between Egypt and occupied Palestine so that the Egyptian people are not able to fight, even to regain the Gaza Strip which is part of Egypt. They are between Lebanon and Palestine so that the Palestinians and the Lebanese are not able to fight against Zionism. They are now present in the Golan to prevent Syria from regaining a part of its occupied territories. UN forces are now present in other parts of the world to affirm the imperialist, the racist, and the Zionist presence.

In the shadow of the UN forces, Patrice Lumumba was physically liquidated so that the Congo could become what it is — the Congo and Zaire have become a region for U.S. and Israeli imperialist influence. Now they have carried out collective colonialism — Khrushchev used this term. I am not the first to use collective colonialism. This term entered the political lexicon in the sixties. The forces that are hostile to peace, socialism, and freedom represented collective colonialism, when every power on its own failed to keep its colonies. In fact, this collective colonialism has returned as Chad is now witnessing collective colonialism. French-U.S. colonialism is in Ndjamena, and with them are fascist and reactionary forces. Our organization has basically been established to combat them. Palestine is also witnessing collective colonialism; Lebanon is bombed by U.S. and Israeli planes and shelled by U.S. and Israeli ships. Collective colonialisn has returned: racism in South Africa is supported by Zionism and the United States. Look at the alliance bewteen these forces; they are fighting collectively, therefore we should fight them collectively, or otherwise they will defeat us one by one. This matter is very serious since it concerns the existence of our people. [applause]

Collective struggle should be in our charters, among our priciples. It should be among the natural rights of people and masses everywhere. Collective struggle is the right of people to organize themselves in a collective struggle for freedom and to fight imperialism, Zionism, racism, reactionism, and fascism all over the world, irrespective of boundaries. Red Indians, blacks, the yellow race — all the oppressed and all those fighting in the name of freedom should organize themselves in collective struggle without borders and without descrimination on the basis of sex, color, or geography. Our existence is threatened by a collective colonialism. In return, we should declare the rights of the Jamahiri human being, a human being who should live in the time of the masses, a human being who likes to live free and happy and liberated from all pressures and shackles. We should declare that every human being has a right to fight the tools of of government, as all instruments of government have shown that they do not represent the people.

Instruments of government in Western Europe do not represent the people of Western Europe. As proof of this we have with us here alternative movements, alternatives to the existing regimes in Western Europe because these regimes submit to the United States, these regimes agree with the U.S. on measures that are so dangerous that they might threaten the security of the people of Western Europe, measures on deploying medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. This means that during any future war the first nuclear strikes will be directed toward Western Europe in order to destroy these missiles immediately, before military operations develop into a third world war. [sentence as heard] The alternative movements, the Greens, realized this danger, and they staged demonstrations to protest the deployment of U.S. missiles in Western Europe. This is because it is not in the interest of Western Europe to accept the deployment of these missiles, as this entails the destruction of the peoples of this region during a nuclear war. But the forces of tyranny fought this angry movement, trampling upon it with the hoofs of horses and pouring boiling water over it.

Every day, satellites and television bring to us pictures of acts of repression against the masses in Western Europe, the masses that reject U.S. hegemony and dominiation. We are going to enter into an alliance; this front includes, among others, the peoples of Western Europe, the dynamic forces in Western Europe, the alternative movements in Western Europe, the Greens, the new Green movement in Western Europe, which is an extension of us. [applause] This front will include all these forces so that we may fight with them against the U.S. presence in Western Europe. These masses will be able to undermine the U.S. military bases in Western Europe, because these masses, burnt by the flames of World War I and World War II, do not want to enter into the inferno of a third world war.

The presence of U.S. military bases and U.S. missiles in Western Europe threatens these people with a destruction yet more horrendous than World War II, because in World War II nuclear weapons were not used [as heard] but most likely they would be used in a third world war. Therefore, in order to survive, these people will fight to undermine the U.S. military bases. We will support them and extent to them all the possibilities to undermine imperialist bases in Western Europe.

We must declare that everyone has the right to resist this power by using similar means. Everyone has the right to resist representation, instruments of power, and deputation. These are natural rights for all men. Every man has the right to transcend representation, instrumentality or deputation in lieu of himself, and to come forward and determine his own destiny. [applause] Every man has right to self-rule; no one should impose on you a mandate council, a council of representatives, or a government. Every man has the right to self-rule, and to resist any domination or interference in his own will. Every man has the right to express what he wants in a way suitable to himself. Every man has the right to gain knowledge in a way suitable to himself, and governments, instruments of power, and imperialism must not force us to learn what they want. As in the case of a ruling family which wants to teach the people it rules the history of this family, the favors of this family — this is dictatorship, oppression.

The people have the right to learn; it is not necessary for them to learn the history of the Hashemite family. Let their own sons learn it, the sons of the Hashemite family; let its history be taught to its own sons. [applause]

Everybody should have the right to a suitable job. (?We must say) no if the opportunity to work is taken away from us and if we are compelled to do a job that the forces of exploitation want. Every human being should be entitled to the fruits of his own production. We are all forbidden to access our own production: the producer is not entitled to his own fruitful production. You work, but your production is taken away by the forces of exploitation. We must declare that the revolution is a natural, necessary, and an important duty. We must declare a ban on the hiring of human beings. Humans are hired everywhere as if they were a camel, a cow, or a vehicle. One of the worst phenomenons of this era is the hiring of a man; a human being is being hired; he is a wage-earner of the employer, a wage-earner of the land owner, a wage-earner of the landlord, and a wage-earner of the authority. We must reject the hiring of human beings. We are the new force which will make the future of the world — the world of the jamahir; a world free from oppression and exploitation; a world of happiness, freedom and emancipation; a world with no governments, no parties, no social classes, no strata, no regular armies or police. [chants]

A house, a vehicle, and goods are the sacred right of every human being. No one should be allowed to dominate (?property) or own it. A house should be owned by its occupier; your own clothes should be your own property. [words indistinct] The wealth of any country should be equally devided between its citizens, with no distinction. Millions of Americans are deprived of the wealth of their country because the wealth of the United States is not devided equally between the Americans. The United States' wealth is the monopoly of the capitalist forces, which is just a minority of the people. Tens of thousands of Americans live in the open, with no lodging or home in the U.S. capital. Are the blacks not citizens of the United States? Yes, they are!

Sixty percent of back youth in the United States are unemployed; they have no work opportunity — 60 percent, in comparison with only 15 percent of the whites who are unemployed. Of course, 15 percent is a large percentage, but small in comparison with the 60 percent unemployed blacks. At the same time, we find 400,000 or more blacks conscripted into the U.S. Army — this constitutes 20 percent of [words indistinct] of blacks.

I extended an invitation when the Ummat al-Islam convened its conference in Chicago and I addressed them via satellite. I asked the 400,000 blacks in the U.S. Army to mutiny and leave military services. Yes, there are blacks in the U.S. Army and police [words indistinct] this imperialist institution and smuggle their weapons and military gear out and to destroy this barbaric and antipeople military machinery, to destroy it from inside. U.S. blacks should continue to call, covertly and openly, upon their brothers in the military institutions and the U.S. police to escape from these institutions, destroy them from inside, and smuggle their weapons out. From now on, we shall all address calls to our brothers the blacks in the United States, [chanting]

The white U.S. citizen's income is around $17,000 per annum, while the blavk U.S. citizen's income is $9,000. If they are both U.S. citizens then why hasn't the United States provided for equal distribution? This is because the whites consider blacks to be nonhuman and noncitizens. Look at this humane society which is called North America. It distinguishes between human beings: This one is black and nonhuman; that one is white and human. Then, when we come to the whites, we find that the exploiting whites exploit the poor whites, and, consequently, we find that 15 percent of the whites are unemployed — but we find that 60 percent of blacks are unemployed.

There are around 5 million blacks in Britain. I was in Britain in 1966 and made a study of their conditions. I studied their situation and found the dirty jobs were assigned to those black Africans in Britain; dirty jobs and extremely low wages for these dirty jobs, without any social security. They are the ones who carry coal and load trucks with coal; they sweep the underground [preceding word in English] tunnels. [applause] They sweep the cafes of the Britons, and every dirty job is given to blacks in Britain.

In fact, the blacks constitute a terrible force that can shake Britain — millions. Fortunately, they are members of this front, and from now on [applause] they will get their rights. [loud applause]

Imagine, the United Nations had long ago defined racial discrimination: racial discrimination is denial of human rights, fundamental rights, and justice; it is a crime against mankind and a heavy obstacle in the face of economic and social development; it is an impediment to international cooperation and peace. Look at this explanation of racial discrimination. And despite this, the United States supports the racist regime in South Africa which commits all these crimes; the U.S. imposes a blockade on Nicaragua, Libya, and Democratic Korea. It fights the Iranian revolution and the revolution in Latin America. [words indistinct].

(?We have heard, for example, from representatives of) the Philippine people who are persecuted because they believe in a religion that is not the religion of the government. [applause] This group is attacked when they perform their religious rites, and oppression against them [words indistinct] they plan and it may have significance and entail danger.

The new president of the Philippines said that the government is a revolutionary one. If the new government is revolutionary, then we shall applaud, welcome, and extend our hand to it. If it is truly revolutionary, it must, first, demolish the U.S. bases. [applause] Then it would be free of U.S. influence — the Philippines would not be under the U.S. sphere of influence. Second, if this is truly a revolutionary government, it must erase oppression and grant rights to the religious group whose representatives are here, a group which has been oppressed — mass genocide was committed against them under the previous Philippine government. [applause] Otherwise, the struggle will continue. [applause]

There are representatives of various groups of the Kurdish nation with us. This is a divided, oppressed, and tormented nation, whose neighbors deny it its right of unity and independence. We cannot ignore the state of this helpless nation. We must declare wherever we may be in the world, and we cover all the continents, the right of the Kurdish nation to unity and independence. [applause]

We have with us representatives of another dismembered, persecuted and wiped out nation. The United States is the criminal. The representatives are from the red Indian nation. [applause] This nation has a population of well over 80 million spread out between North and South America and the ocean islands.

We, the peoples of the small nations which are fighting (?in the name) of freedom and which are hostile to colonialism, have to carry another slogan in addition to that of the Kurdish nation — the slogan of the right of the red Indian nation to unity and independence, and to be able to live in the land of its forefathers in the United States of America in dignity and glory. [applause] This nation, when it becomes independent and united along with the Kurdish nation and the rest of the persecuted and dismembered nations, will be creating a new world of nations which used to be colonized and exploited and persecuted, and which appreciates the value of freedom and peace and the value of justice. These nations, if united and indepedent, will be the ones that will create the new world — the world of freedom, peace, and happiness.

As for the world in which we live today, it is a world which was created by the powerful who triumphed in World War II. They are the ones who drew the map of today's world. They are the ones who arranged the peoples and nations in the way they chose. They dismembered nations and dismembered peoples. They divided territories which were one to suit their colonialist interests. They are the ones who left racism in South Africa and Zionism in Palestine. They are the ones who created the problems over which the Third World states — former colonies — have been fighting, over borders that these colonialists created.

Therefore, the world in which we live today is created by imperialism through military force. As for the world which we will be creating, it is going to be the world of the colonized and persecuted peoples who cherish freedom, love peace, and want to live in happiness, and would appreciate these values and consequently safeguard them. They are the ones who are qualified to create international security arrangements for safguarding world peace. Peace cannot be left to a reckless power like the United States, which has a permanent seat and the right of veto at the Security Council, and which sends her fleets to terrify us in our own homes and set up military and nuclear bases throughout the world. How can we leave the task of peace and security in the world to such a satanic power. Indeed, it should be destroyed, and we should fight it [applause] and undermine its bases. [applause]

A new force had been added as a result of the unjust U.S. confrontation against the people of the Jamahiriyah. During this confrontation people's congress of all nationalities that exist on Libyan soil were held in the territory of the Jamahiriyah. [chanting] Congresses of all nationalities that exist on Libyan soil were held, and basic people's congresses were formed, and they announced the formation of an internationalist anti-imperialist front which, subsequently, joined this conference. Thus, a new force has been added to the forces which attended the first conference, and the internationalist international Zionism, racism, fascism, and reaction people's front was enlarged. It now includes all peoples of the world, and no one can prevent these masses from determining their destiny and creating a popular front, and [words indistinct] and form people's congresses, people's committees and revolutionary committees everywhere in the world. The struggle is between the masses and those who are enslaving them — their conquerors, their exploiters. The masses will not hesitate to strike blows against the instruments of power and forces of tyranny and exploitation everywhere in the world so that the masses will triumph. Brothers, this gathering is the foundation stone of the era of the masses. There is another force: revolutionary forces, covert and overt, all over the world, and covert and overt people's congresses all over the world, which constitute the rear of this gathering, an extension of it and [words indistinct] of this gathering. There are people's congresses on all the world's continents; there are revolutionary committees on all the world's continents. The era of the masses is being propagated; the era of peoples devoid of governments, armies, police and all forces of tyranny and exploitation in the land of the Jamahiriyahs. [chanting] Yes, power must be for the masses; people's power must be established. This cry, power to the masses, power to the people, now exists everywhere in the world. True and lasting peace cannot be achieved without the establisnment of jamahiriyahs everywhere in the world, because peoples like each other. [chanting]

Brothers, I wish you success in this great international encounter which brings together all the movements fighting for freedom, all the peace movements in the world [words indistinct] from imperialism, fascism, reaction, racism, and Zionism, the enemies of mankind. These masses, these peoples, these movements, want to turn the Mediterranean into a lake of peace, and want to bring about cooperation and fraternity between Europe, Africa, and the Arab world through the Mediterranean which must be free of foreign fleets, foreign bases, and nuclear missiles. This force wants the black nations to take its rightful place on earth; and likewise for the red Indian nation, and the fragmented Kurdish nation.

These forces want to achieve genuine peace; they want to see the efforts of mankind come together to vanquish nature, to exploit nature, and to resolve man's economic problems. These forces want the destruction of all the forces hostile to development, to prosperity, to progress currently embodied by imperialism, capitalism, facism, reaction, racism, and Zionism. If these enemies persist on earth, mankind will not be able to live in peace and reassurance; freedom will not be able to triumph and prosper, and man's evil forces, these allied forces that are fighting us collectively, continue to exist.

We can defeat them if we fight collectively. Hence, we must decide the principle of collective struggle and collective combat in order to vanquish these forces. The revolutionary struggle continues! Forward! [applause, shouting of slogans and chants].

Delegates to Conference Comment

LD172229 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Rajab 6, March 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The delegate of the alternative movements in Spain lauds the speech given by the leader of the revolution in that, he adds, it calls for what they are interested in, viz., elimination of imperialism and the like.

He continues that efforts should be orchestrated vis-a-vis United Nations calling for placing pressure on it to abolish veto at U.N. Security Council so as to make equal all the peoples and nations worldwide.

He accuses U.S. Administration of attempting to put an end to peace and security in the Mediterranean Sea region, condemning its provocations and demanding that it withdraw all its military fleets from there.

Louis Farrakhan, the American Black Muslim leader, says that all U.S. citizens who have come to this conference are threatened to be sentenced to ten-year imprisonment in U.S.A., adding that they don't recognise the right of Reagan legally, morally and also according to the God-given law.

He adds that he as a Muslim reserves his right to travel anywhere to stand by the side of Muslims who are fighting to eliminate imperialism and terrorism.

He pointed out that there are now 30 million Black Muslims in America besides the Indians there who number around 90 millions who have laid down a strategy against imperialism and racism side by side with the vital forces in the world at large.

He demands that Reagan stop interfering in Africa, Latin America and Nicaragua, calling for standing by the Palestinian people who are striving to redeem their homeland — Palestine.

Farrakhan reiterates that they are not terrorist because they are struggling to undermine imperialism and racism, stressing that the pledges of the real freedom-fighters are the only ones that will bring about victory over imperialism and neo-colonialism.

The delegate of the Palestine Liberation Organization says force has been used to terrorise the peoples of the region who oppose U.S. hegemony schemes, especially against the Jamahiriyah that is subjected to U.S. provocations.

He points out that without U.S. support and backing the Zionist entity will be unable to exercise its blind racism to fulfill Zionist ambitions to occupy Palestinian and Arab lands.

He condemns the savage attempts made so far to impose the U.S.-Zionist scheme with a view to liquidate the Palestinian question through intimidation and persuasion, pointing out that it is regrettable that such schemes are dealt with by Arab reaction and right-wing deviated Palestinians. Such quarters have either forgotten or bypassed the fact that U.S. imperialism can't act as a mediator in our conflict with Zionism, simply because such imperialism is a basic quarter in this conflict, let alone being biased totally to the Zionist enemy.

He also points out the capitulatory direction pursued by 'Arafat through his welcoming of the visit made by traitor al-Sadat to occupied al-Quds and bringing about reconciliation with the enemy.

The delegate of Malta Labour Party says that it is high time the military bases were eliminated in the world in general and in the Mediterranean Sea basin in particular.

He continues that imperialism is behind the diaspora of the Palestinians, displaced from its own homeland.

He draws the attention of delegates at the conference to the question of Cyprus, calling on them to stand for its unity and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from there.

He expresses his pleasure to be present at conference so as to have the chance to meet all those who struggle against imperialism whose delegates have come here and assembled on the soil of the great Al Fatah revolution — on the soil that has learnt and experienced a lot and has fulfilled the dream cherished by mankind, vis., liberation and emancipation.

He also says that they salute the leader of the revolution and his people for their hospitality.

The delegate of the alternative movements in Italy in his speech says that they should condemn the stand assumed by Reagan, stressing that there should be a real solidarity among those present at the conference. This solidarity, he calls on them, should be transformed to a collelctive struggle waged by all wronged peoples and nations worldwide, forming a unified front against imperialism and neo-colonialism.

Shaykh Ben Oumar in his speech stresses that unlike what imeprialists and reactionary historians allege Chad is no creation of French Colonialism. It had an economic, social, cultural and political regular presence before the imperialist invasion in the nineteenth century.

He adds this Chadian state was of the Islamic religion when Arabic was used in all social and family life, but the French imperialist administration started to undermine the components of the cultural character of the Chadian people through organizing blood massacres against scholars men of God and through the closing of schools and burning of books and implanting instead French culture in all walks of life.

Thus, he continues, the Chadian people have been subjected to more than a century to French imperialism and to more than 20 years of civil war started by France, U.S.A. and their allies, let alone the arrogance of racists in Africa and Israel.

He has also recounted the atrocities committed in Chad at the hands of France to subjugate the Chadian people.

He has also mentioned the national liberation front under the leadership of Ibrahim Ibsha in 1966 which was an epoch-making in the history of the struggle of his people against the French invaders, pointing out that the masses realized then their responsibilities and started to shoulder it. [sentence as received]

The escalation of the Chadian national struggle notwithstanding, French military intervention took place in 69/1970 to attempt to rescue whatever was left of their dictatorial rule there. Furthermore, the French made every endeavour to undermine the Chadian national movements from within through recruiting some nationals to serve its interests and infilitrate the front such as Habre and Hussan Sadiq. Also, tribal ideological and political conflicts erupted, and as a consequence, the bases on which Chadian patriotic movements was laid down were shaken. One of such outcomes came into being in 1970 when puppet Habre with French support launched massacre operations against Chadian citizens under pretext of preserving peace.

He concludes that since Islam is a religion that exhorts people to be tolerant, and because of the danger of civil war that has come to threaten our people represented by the imperialist conspiracies and manoeuvres, an agreement has been concluded by all concerned and conflicting quarters in Chad to achieve peace and security.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Burkina Faso Official, Letter

LD171009 Tripoli JANA in English 0948 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, Rajab 6, March 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received yesterday the secretary general of the Revolution Defence Committees and member of Revolution Command Council of Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso who is heading the delegation of his country to the second international conference of the international centre for combatting imperialism, Zionism, racism, fascism and reaction which started its sessions Saturday afternoon.

The secretary general of R.D.C. of Burkina Faso handed to the leader a written letter from Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Revolutionary Council of the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso.

MAURITANIA

President Ould Taya Returns From Cape Verde

AB170805 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The domestic news today is marked by the visit of the head of state to Cape Verde. The president returned to Nouakchott yesterday at the end of this visit, and on his arrival Colonel Maaouiya Sid 'Ahmed Ould Taya affirmed that this visit enabled him and his counterpart, Aristides Pereira, to review their bilateral cooperation and also to seek ways and means to strengthen it in all areas.

During this official visit by the head of state to Cape Verde,the two statesmen discussed African and Arab issues, as well as those of common interest.

MOROCCO

Lamrani Ill, Laraki Named Acting Prime Minister

LD142028 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Excerpt] His Majesty has announced that he has decided to appoint Dr Azzedine Laraki, Minister of National Education, as acting prime minister due to the health of Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani, who requires treatment and rest.

His Majesty the king siezed the opportunity to laud Mohamed Karim Lamrani for his loyalty and honesty and for his deeds as prime minister. His Majesty wished Mr Lamrani a quick recovery so that he will be able to resume and follow up his task in the service of the homeland.

His Majesty lauded the moral and humanitarian attributes and the efficiency of Dr Azzedine Laraki in his governmental posts, giving him instructions and valuable advice within the framework of his new tasks.

SUDAN

SPLM-National Alliance Talks To Begin 18 Mar

JN181124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA) — Citing its correspondent in Addis Ababa, the newspaper *AL-AYYAM* says that [words indistinct] the meetings between representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and the National Alliance will begin in the city of Nasit, in the Equatoria Region, this evening, Tuesday.

The agenda of the opening session, which has been delayed for 3 days because Colonel John Garang was not in Addis Ababa, *AL-AYYAM* says, includes two speeches by representatives of the SPLM and the National Alliance. Later, subcommittees will be formed to represent the two sides in the expanded dialogue which will be held between them directly.

Trial of May 1969 Coupists Postponed

JN151908 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA) — The trial of the May 1969 coupists, which was scheduled to be held tomorrow morning, has been postponed until a later date. This decision was made after Judge 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abduh excused himself from presiding over the trial for personal reasons. The judge explained that he excused himself from presiding over the trial for health reasons. He said that he could not coordinate presiding over a new trial with the judicial arts required to evaluate and pass judgment on the case of the evacuation of the Falashas to Israel which is supposed to be announced on 5 April.

Defense Minister Comments on Visit to Libya

JN171105 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 17 (SUNA) — The Defence Minister 'Uthman 'Abdallah denied that his recent visit to Libya will affect negatively Sudan relations with other countries.

Who declines to support us has no right to refuse our acception of assistances from the countries which we know its keeness for our country's interests, 'Abdallah said.

The Sudanese people who have freed their will after the April 6 uprising, will search for friends and not masters, he added in statement to the daily *AL-SAHAFAH* in its today's issue.

My visit to Libya came for complementing the support which have been agreed upon last July in Tripoli and our views are identical on security issues which concerned the area as general and the two sister countries in particular, 'Abdallah explained, denying any link of his visit with the recent military escalation in southern Sudan.

The defence minister described as baseless reports which broadcasted by Garang's radio that his troops defeated a unit of the People's Armed Forces in Jonglei southern Sudan explaining that such rumors came as an attempt to strengthen Garang's stand in his current negotiations with a delegation from the National Alliance for the Salvation of the Country in Ethiopia.

Libyan Offer To Improve Ethiopia-Sudan Ties Reported

JN171505 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — Prime Minister Dr al-Jazuli Dafʿallah has said that Libya is currently holding contacts with Ethiopia in regard to its relations with Sudan. He indicated that Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi informed him of this when he met him during his visit to Libya last week. He said that Al-Qadhdhaf promised to carry out good offices' efforts with Ethiopia until an accord is reached and Sudanese-Ethiopian relations improve.

This came during Al-Jazuli's meeting with the heads of media and press organs this morning. Regarding the impact of his visit to Libya on the military situation in the south. Al-Jazuli said that he did not touch on military details. However, Libya affirmed its stand in supporting Sudan and in extending assistance to it until it overcomes its difficulties.

Citizens Warned Against Carrying Any Weapons

JN171121 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 17 (SUNA) — Citizens in the national capital were strictly warned from carrying any kind of weapon knife sticks and the like a statement issued by the national capital commissioner Gen (Police) Kamal Bashar said.

Anyone who contradicts the order by possessing and kind of wepaon in a public place, a meeting or a gathering will have to face trial, the strong worded statement said.

This measure and others were taken as a precaution against any incident that might take place in the upcoming general elections.

Law Graduates Continue Hunger Strike 17 March

JN171040 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 17 (INA) — An open hunger strike by law graduates is still going on for the consecutive seventh day despite the mediation led by Bar Association and other prominent politicians to end the strike.

More than 180 strikers were taken to hospital for medical treatment, a reliable source at the graduates executive committee told SUNA.

Meanwhile, the Bar Assosciation reorganization council is due to hold a meeting within the coming two days to discuss the positive outcome which resulted from its mediation.

The graduates at the jurist training centere started their open hunger-strike last Sunday demanding Cancellation of Bar

Examination.

Article Says South Victim of Superpower Crusade

JN151222 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1044 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Mar (SUNA) — Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad, political commentator for the newspaper *AL-SAHAFAH*, says in his weekly article today that East and West are in league against Sudan and that both are leading a crusade whose instruments are the rebels in southern Sudan under the command of Colonel John Garang.

The political commentator says that several war developments in the south led him to this conclusion. These developments, he adds, are the long-range guns which the rebels aim at the Sudanese Armed Forces from inside Ethiopian territory and the rebel activities in the south, especially in the Yerol Region where planes transport rebel troops, supplies, arms, and ammunition. This means, the commentator says, that major powers support the rebels, supply them with all their needs, and spend money on them without any limit. Otherwise, the commentator asks, where did they get all these supplies and how did they increase their strength to 40,000 so quickly? The commentator reaches the conclusion that the rebels are backed by Ethiopia, Cuba, the USSR, and others.

The commentator asks: Why is the West, led by the United States, supporting people who are also backed by the USSR? The commentator says: The answer is very complicated, but it can be viewed as follows. First, the United States is very slow in fulfilling its military obligations to the Sudan. In fact, it is reluctant to hand aircraft it once promised to Sudan on the pretext that this type of aircraft is out of production. Second, several planes have been sent to the United States for maintenance, but they have not been returned to Sudan although the maintenance period is over. Third, all arms promises have been followed by polite excuses until it has become obvious that the U.S. Administration cannot fulfill these promises because of pressure from Congress, which feels that Sudan might use these weapons against Christians in the south.

The political commentator adds: What is said about the United States can also be said about Britain, which has also refused to do maintenance work on planes and has failed to honor its armament obligations. The British Government uses the same excuses, saying that the British Parliament refuses to supply the Sudanese Armed Forces with weapons which could be used against Christians in the south. The same can also be said about France which, in addition to making similar excuses, is helping the rebels provided they do not destroy the Jonglei Canal bulldozers.

The political commentary affirms that a greal deal of support reaches the Garang forces from church groups and Israel. The commentary blames the Arab states which, he says, are either indifferent or only fulfill part of their promises of aid, or simply give verbal support, despite the fact that arms requested by Sudan are stockpiled in their arsenals. He says: Perhaps some of these states fear that the dispatch of these arms will conflict with the deals under which they bought these arms from the big powers.

The commentator excludes Kin gHusayn of Jordan who, he says, referred in his speech to the Arab Parliamentary Union 2 days ago to the dangers facing the Arab nation as a result of the war in southern Sudan. The commentator says that despite his meager resources, King Husayn has continued to send all kinds of aid to Sudan. Hb taht Siwar al-Dhahab, chairmano Transitional Military Council, contacted King Husayn 2 days ago express his thanks and jppreciation for this aid.

The political commentator descibes the situation faced by Sudan as very serious. The commentator concludes by saying that the whole question falls within the framework of an international strategy to destroy regional unity, which is a very serious thing, then undermine inherited beliefs, and finally reach a satisfactory international division [of Sudan] involving the two superpowers, the United States and Russia, and Israel, of course.

SPLA: TWO Government Garrisons Fall to SPLA Forces

EA171603 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Details of the fall of (Poptap) and (Longo) Bucket Wheel enemy garrisons have come in. According to our correspondent at the frontline, before the fall of (Poptap) and Bucket Wheel, the enemy had sent a strong reinforcenemt of one battalion from Malakal to (Payot), and from there to rescue the long-besieged hungry and thirsty garrisons of (Poptap) and of Bucket Wheel at (longo). The reinforcement was ambushed, destroyed and dispersed by Zindiyyah, Lion and Hippo battalions under the command of Captain Son Agot at (Kwach Deng) between (Ayot) and (Bifa Biet) and (Poptap) and Bucket Wheel garrisons.

The defeat of the enemy reinforcement at (Kwach) meant the fall of (poptap) and (longo) Bucket Wheel garrsions. After the Fiasco between (Ayot) and (Bufa Biet), Captain Son Agot at (Poptap) agreed with the enemy commander at (Poptap) for them to withdraw without being attacked by SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] forces. And this was done as agreed. At the same time Captain John Mal Dot also coordinated with the enemy commander at Bucket Wheel garrison near (Longo) to provide them with free passage to withdraw. This was guaranteed.

The Bucket Wheel garrison withdrew to (Poptap) and both forces of (Poptap) and Bucket Wheel completed withdrawal from (Poptap) under SPLA permission and protection on 13th and 14th of March 1986. The enemy left behind the following: One 6-wheel magirus truck, number 25286. It is off-road but can be repaired, one Toyota pick-up number RGC 353, also off-road, but repairable. One APC, number 9795, also off-road and repairable. A good number of 82-mm mortar shells in an unusable condition.

It is worth mentioning that there was a prolonged siege and shelling in both (Poptap) and Bucket Wheel garrisons by SPLA forces which exhausted the enemy forces and forced them to withdraw. Unfortunately, according to our correspondent, the enemy garrisons at both (Poptap) and (Longo) Bucket Wheel garrisons had broken into CCI [Compagnie de construction Internationale] stores, took what they needed and destroyed most of what they could not take. This was not part of our agreement, the correspondent added.

As for the bucket wheel excavator itself, the enemy made only superficial damage. SPLA forces are now in full control of both (Poptap) and Bucket Wheel excatavor. The spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese people's Liberation movement] political-military high command was invited those concerned, the CCI and the Egyptian Irrigation Department, to coordinate with the SPLA general headquarters or SPLA external coordinating officers to come to the sites of (Poptap) and Bucket Wheel, if Sudan Government allows them, to check their stores, and especially the bucket wheel excavator, which they can repair, grease and leave under protection of the SPLA.

The spokeaman further stressed that the leadership of the SPLA-SPLM is aware of the importance of the Jonglei Canal to both Egypt and Sudan and of the bucket wheel, adding that any further damage to it would eefinitely not come from the SPLA but from the Tranitional Military Council and their allies.

SPLA: Army Mutiny Closes Juba Airport; 65 Killed

EA171552 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Radio SPLA sources in Juba report that commercial lorries are being commandeered in Juba to transport troops from Juba to Yirol and Rumbek to execute the Transitional Military Council's misguided decision to attempt by all means to recover Rumbek and Yirol. Commenting on this information, the spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese peoples Liberation movement] political-military high command maintained that SPLA is ready to repulse any such foolish attempts and to take the war even beyond, including to Khartoum itself. The transitional Military council should not give orders in their air-conditioned offices and houses when they do not know what the actual situation is like, the spokesman added. Meanwhile, the same SPLA sources in Juba have confirmed that troops in Juba that were under transfer to the north mutinied when they were ordered to go to Rumbek instead. They captured Juba airport and ordered a Transarabian airliner that brought them ammunition to take them to Khartoum. According to the sources, clashes broke out when authorities insisted to take the soldiers to the frontline. Sixty-five men, including the commander of the mutineers and his deputy, were captured and killed. As a result Juba airport has been closed indefinitely. The commander-in-Chief of the SPLA, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, has appealed to all the government forces in war zone 1 [southern Sudan] to continue the mutinies and above all to involve themselves in the formation of a new sudan by forming their own al-tajammu [alliance] and a joint command with the SPLA.

SPLA: Forces Capture Government Garrison

EA151700 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Reports just received from Jonglei Province say the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] Forces have captured (Poptap) army garrison along the Jonglei Canal. The details of the fighting which resulted into the capture of the garrison will be brought to you as soon as they are available.

Equipment Captured

EA160012 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The following important news has just come in: SPLA forces captured, today, Saturday 15 March 1986, the site of the giant excavator known as the bucket wheel on the half-finished Jonglei canal. The bucket wheel itself is now under the full control and protection of the SPLA.

Following the seizure of the bucket wheel, the official spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] Military High Command announced that any damage that may occur to the excavator will be entirely the responsibility of the Transitional Military Council.

Eritrean Army Official Injured in Car Accident

JN171109 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 17 (SUNA) — Leader of the Eritrean People Liberation Army 'Uthman Salih Sibi has been seriously injured and his wife was killed in a car accident last Saturday in the eastern city of Gaddarif, it was reported here today.

SIBI, who was on his way to Khartoum, is now hospitalized in the Kassala eastern Sudan.

Mrs Sibi died in hospital the day of the accident.

Eritrean Council Official Refutes Ayyub Remarks

JN171047 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, March 17 (SUNA) — Chairman of Eritrean Revolutionary Council Ahmed Nasir who is also member of Eritrean Liberation Front has denied the press statement released here recently by Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayyub.

In a press statement, Nasir denied yesterday the rumours saying the Eritrean factions have abandoned the slogan of separating Eritrea from Ethiopia.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) Charter does not contradict the separation of Eritrea From Ethiopia. Nasir said, reaffirming that (OAU) charter referred to the respect of territories inherited from European colonialism.

The daily (*AL-SAHAFAH*) published here today quoted Nasir as saying Eritrea has a well knwon border with Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti.

Nasir went on condemning Ayyub statement saying if he wants to benefit diplomatically he has to find out other means instead of exploiting the Eritrean question.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Meets With Ministers, Signs Documents

LD171931 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpts] President Habib Bourguiba held a working session with Mohamed Mzali, prime minister and minister of the interior, in the presence of Mohamed Skhiri, minister and director of the Presidential Office at the presidential palace in Carthage, this morning.

During the session, the head of state signed the following documents:

1. A document approving the judicial cooperation agreement between Tunisia and Poland which was adopted in Warsaw on 22 March 1985. Both countries signed this agreement in order to bolster friendship and cooperation relations between the Republic of Tunisia and the Republic of Poland, and because of the great importance that is attached to consolidating cooperation in judicial relations. This agreement determines the aspects of cooperation vis-a-vis civil and penal articles. This agreement stipulates the principle of equality enabling citizens of both parties to the agreement to resort to judicial authorities and to all specialized bodies to deal with their matters related to personal and financial rights on the basis of the same rights enjoyed by the citizens of the other party to the agreement.

It is worth noting that the agreement is similar to the judicial agreements signed between Tunisia and some eastern European countries such as Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Soviet Union;

2. A document approving the consular agreement that was agreed between Tunisia and Poland in Tunis on 6 March 1985. This agreement was made to materialize the desire of the Governments of the Tunisian Republic and the Polish People's Republic to bolster their relations in the consular field and to consolidate the existing bonds of relions of friendship between them.

The head of state has also decided to appoint Mustapha Badreddine as director-general of customs and exise.

President Habib Bourguiba received Mohamed Skhiri whom the supreme combattant appointed as governor of the Tunisian Central Bank in the presence of Mohamed Mzali and Mansouri Skhiri.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Front Official Speaks to Kuwaiti Journalist

EA172124 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] [Secretary General of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front] Comrade Ramadan Mohamed Nur has said that the People's Front will rely on its own ability to overcome all problems while pursuing its struggle for the independence and freedom of the Eritrean people.

This was stated the day before yesterday by the comrade secretary general in reply to questions from a journalist from the Kuwaiti paper *AL-ANBA*, who has concluded a tour of our liberated areas. Comrade Ramadan gave an extensive briefing to the journalist on the objective political and military situation in Eritrea.

Answering a question from the journalist on the assistance that the Eritrean revolution receives from the Arab states, Comrade Ramadan said: The views of Arab states concerning the Eritrean revolution differ, and this is reflected in their positions and assistance. The secretary general of the People's Front called on the Arab countries to stand side by side with and to step up their assistance to the Eritrean revolution at this time when the Eritrean people are fighting bitterly for their independence.

He also called on central news (?agencies) of the Arab countries to disseminate the objective reality of the Eritrean revolution after getting tangible evidence from the Eritrean battlefields.

UGANDA

Museveni Announces Pakwach Bridge Capture

AB171225 Dakar PANA in English 0955 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Kampala, 17 March (UNA/PANA) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has announced the capture of Pakwach Bridge in West Nile and Acholibur, a few kilometres from Kitgum to the liberation forces of the National Resistance Army. [sentence as received]

The president disclosed this on Saturday at a passing out ceremony of 33 pioneer NRM [National Resistance Movement] political cadres at the NRM political school located in Namugongo forest near Kampala.

In his address, President Museveni called for the integration of the economies of African states in order to have a wide resource base and a wider market. The Ugandan leader said African countries must work together economically if they are to make any impact on the world scene. He declared that African countries cannot continue to be in the camp of the most backward nations in the world when they are endowed with the best resources. He said the NRM believes that Africa can develop to the levels attained by developed countries.

NRA Officers Arrested; Troops Heading for Arua

EA181124 Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 18 Mar 86 p 20

[By *STANDARD* correspondent, Kampala: "NRA Officers Held in Uganda Clean-up"]

[Text] Two senior officers of the National Resistance Army [NRA] have been arrested in connection with the armed robberies of vehicles which have hit Kampala. The arrest of the two officers, whose names were not given, was announced by President Yoweri Museveni in his office at Parliament building yesterday. Robberies of cars have gone up over the last week, and one of the victims was an Anglican priest with the Africa Evangelical Crusade, the Reverend John Wilson, who was killed by armed men in military uniform, before taking away his car.

President Museveni said the arrest of the two NRA officers would assist in tracking down those behind the crime. The two officers are the ringleaders of this notorious group, Museveni said, adding that the arrest of the two was a relief to him. On the recent killing of a Kampala advocate, Museveni said unlike in the past, what was happening was not politically instigated. The stealing of motor vehicles and the killing of people in the last few days, has been criminally inspired, he explained, adding that eradicating insecurity from Kampala would take some time.

He said although there were instances of violence, they could not be compared to what had been happening in Uganda during the governments of Milton Obote and Tito Okello. During those regimes he said, violence was inspired by government agents. This is not what is happening today.

Commenting on the recent arrests of people in Iganga District, the president said Obote's Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) had been organising thuggery through the formation of an organisation to restore Obote to power. If Obote wants to organise insurgency, we shall effectively deal with it, he said. In order to curb insecurity in and around Kampala, night patrols by NRA soldiers and the police would be increased. The fact that we are arresting and punishing bad soldiers within our army is in itself a healthy attitude. The past regimes never dared punish a soldier, the president said.

On the situation at the battle front in northern Uganda, the president said following the capture of Pakwach Bridge, the gateway to West Nile, the NRA was now heading towards Arua, the largest town in West Nile. He said he has sent negotiating teams to Arua but on their arrival there, they were arrested by UNLA [Uganda National Liberation Army] soldiers. I understand that when the people of Arua heard about it, they picked up pangas and forced UNLA soldiers to release my envoys, saying they did not want the fleeing UNLA soldiers to take the war to Arua, Museveni added.

He conceded that there was still some resistance by the fleeing UNLA soldiers, adding: We continue to face counter-attacks from the fleeing soldiers, but we have always managed to crush them. Museveni said he thought after the liberation of the whole country, the fleeing soldiers might attempt to avenge. If they try to do this, we will decisively and effectively deal with them.

AFP: Press Coverage of Political Parties Banned

AB181025 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 18 Mar 86

[By Mukyusa Jengo]

[Text] Kampala, March 18 (AFP) — The new government of President Yoweri Museveni, which last week suspended all political party activity in the country, has extended the ban to prohibit parties from issuing any statements to or through the press.

In a surprise move, the minister of information and broadcasting, Abu Mayanja, released a statement Monday evening saying the press would not be allowed to publish statements issued by political parties until the ban is lifted. The display of political party flags, singing of party songs, wearing of clothes in party colours, and even party gestures and symbols have been banned under the regulations, Mr Mayanja said.

"I wish to make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that the suspension of political party activities extends to and includes the issuing of any press or other public statements by political parties, and the publication of such statements by the press," the information minister's statement said.

"If you ban a political party from holding a political rally, but allow it to say through the press what it would have said at the rally, there would be no point in banning the rally in the first place," said the statement, which was also broadcast on Uganda radio.

The statement is a clear indication that the government was irked by a recent open letter to Internal Affairs Minister Paulo Ssemogere about 18 members of the formerly ruling Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) now in custody without charges. The letter was issued by the acting administrative secretary general of the party, Kagenda Atwoki, and was widely publicised in the media. The UPC is the party of ex-President Milton Obote, now in exile after being ousted in a military coup last July.

"It should have been clear to the UPC and to the papers which published the statement that the ban would necessarily extend to the issuance and publication of a statement of whatever kind from a political party," Mr Mayanja said.

The UPC statement was issued the same day as an editor of the *FOCUS* weekly newspaper, Sully Kiwanuka, was charged in a Kampala magistrate's court with sedition. Mr Kiwanuka was granted bail of 200,000 Uganda shillings (about 136 dollars).

CAMEROON

Biya Addresses Party Militants After Elections

AB161025 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Address by President Paul Biya to CPDM militants on 15 March; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] Fellow countrymen, the elections of officials at all the provinces of the CPDM [Cameroon People's Democratic Movement] have ended. They were free and fair, with several candidates standing and through the secret ballot. In fact, they were democratic because each voter was able to make his personal choice. The elections have been a total success. They were organized and carried out in order and peace. There was large participation, and there was enthusiasm. [Words indistinct] and your attachment to the institutions of the Republic, for which I would like to thank each of you. Each Cameroonian concerned has fulfilled his civic responsibilities and duties.

Indeed, these elections have been won by Cameroon. Our country will continue through the new deal and the CPDM to progress in unity, peace, and social justice.

National unity involves you and all of us. Continue to remain committed, continue to be responsible men and women of your country, continue to be efficient in all you do. We have a challenge before us. Let us meet it through strong militancy, [word indistinct] commitment, discipline, and tolerance.

Long live CPDM. Long live Cameroon.

Biya Receives CAR, Equatorial Guinea Ministers

AB142205 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Excerpt] There were two diplomatic ceremonies this afternoon at the Unity Palace. The first audience was granted by Head of State Paul Biya to an Equatorial Guinean envoy, Mr Inestroca Felipe, the finance minister, who came to deliver to President Biya a message from his counterpart, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

The second ceremony was an occasion for the CAR special envoy to deliver to the president of the Republic a message addressed to him by President Andre Kolingba. Answering questions from the press, Lieutenant Colonel Christophe Grelombe, the CAR minister of interior, declared that relations between his country and Gabon are excellent, natural [naturel], and dynamic. He, moreover, expressed his appreciation for the announcement on the holding of a meeting between President Hissein Habre of Chad and the main leader of the opposition, Mr Goukouni Oueddei.

CHAD

GUNT Prisoners Transferred to Ndjamena

AB151922 Paris AFP in French 1414 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 15 March (AFP) — Some 100 fighters of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) who were taken prisoner during the violent fighting of 5 March this year on the 16th parallel have just been transferred into the Chadian capital, it was learned from official sources in Ndjamena on Saturday.

These GUNT prisoners, described as "mercenaries" by the Ndjamena authorities, are going to join their companions in arms — several hundred, according to official sources — captured during the mid-February fighting in Oum Chalouba, Kalait, Koro Toro, Kouba Olanga, and Zigey in the north of the country. Of Chadian origin and citizens of Chad's neighboring countries, these soldiers of Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the GUNT president, were either enrolled by force as was recently stated by the Chadian minister of information, Mr Mahamet Soumaila, or engaged for money according to reliable concordant sources.

FANT Claims Islamic Legion Unit at Chicha Destroyed

AB171922 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1858 GMT 17 Mar 86

["Communique" issued by the High Command of the Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) on 17 March 1986 in Ndjamena — read by second in command Major (Galiban Dantato)]

[Text] A patrol unit of Libyan provocateurs and their mercenaries was intercepted by the FANT at 30 km northeast of Koro-Toro today, 17 March 1986. After a few minutes of intense fighting, the aggressors who were put to flight, were captured. Acting in self-defense and using their right of pursuit, the FANT chased the fleeing troops up to the base from where they came, that is the Chicha command post. It was a total surprise for these dogs in the barracks at Chicha and they were completely destroyed. The Islamic Legion based at Chicha is only a past memory. The detailed balance-sheet of this victorious action of the FANT will be announced later.

ZAIRE

Foreign Workers Captured by UNITA Arrive

AB161300 Paris AFP in English 1252 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Geneva, March 16 (AFP) — More than 150 foreign workers captured by the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in northeast Angola last March 1 have arrived in neighbouring Zaire and will be freed Sunday or Monday, a reliable source said here.

UNITA had originally said when it captured the workers, who represented eight different nationalities, that they would be marched 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) south to the movement's headquarters at Jamba in southeast Angola before negotiations would begin for their release.

The group was the largest ever captured by UNITA, and the march faced serious logistic problems in the face of severe terrian and possible attacks by government forces.

The foreigners were said by foreign diplomats in Luanda to include 97 Filipinos, 40 Portuguese, four Britons, two West Germans and a Romanian. Ten of the captives, from Portugal, Canada, Sao Tome and Principe and Angola, were reported to have escaped after their capture.

Andrade is Angola's largest diamond-mining complex.

In Lisbon, the Portuguese news agency ANOP quoted Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva as saying that a Portuguese airliner would be leaving for Kinshasa to bring home the Portuguse captives.

The prime minister did not know when the plane would be leaving and whether it would be bringing back other nationalities.

UNITA said when it captured the foreigners that the Portuguese and Filipinos would be released first unconditionally out of respect for new Portuguese President Mario Soares and the "return of the democratic process" to the Philippines. The remainder would be freed after negotiations involving the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNITA said.

Official Receives Angolan, Chadian Envoys

AB160930 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1740 15 Mar 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Mar (AZAP) — Bokingi Embeyolo, secretary of state for foreign affairs, on Saturday successively received and held talks with Miguel Gaspar Neto and Maitine Djoumbe, ambassadors of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Chad to Zaire respectively, who paid him courtesy calls.

Interviewed by the press at the end of the visit, Gaspar Neto indicated that he and the secretary of state reviewed the general situation prevailing in southern Africa, particularly in Angola, before discussing the visit to be paid to Luanda soon by some Zairian experts within the framework of cooperation relations between Zaire and Angola. They also reviewed the situation of Angolans residing in Zaire, said the Angolan diplomat, without, however, giving the exact number of this community. Mr Neto returned to Kinshasa recently after a few weeks' mission to his country.

On his part, Mr Maitine explained to Mr Bokingi the problems currently facing his country and the efforts that the Chadian Government, led by President Hissein Habre, continues to make to redress the political, sociocultural, and economic situation in Chad.

PRC Trade Union Delegation Continues Visit

AB161350 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1115 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Matadi, 16 March (AZAP) — A delegation of PRC trade unionists led by Wang Xun, secretary of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions currently on a friendly visit to Zaire, returned to Kinshasa on Sunday at the end of a 24-hour visit to Bas-Zaire Region. This 6-member delegation that was accompanied by Citizen Ikanga Mpia, deputy national secretary of the National Union of Workers of Zaire [UNTZA] in charge of external relations was met on arrival at Inga by Citizen Musafiri Abudu, UNTZA regional secretary, and his close associates.

In Bas-Zaire Region, members of the Chinese delegation visited the major projects of the second Republic, that is, the site of the Inga hydroelectric dam, the Marshal Mobutu Sese Bridge, and the Matadi international port where technical details about these projects were given them by Zairian engineers.

BURKINA FASO

National Council Delegation Leaves for PRC

AB171557 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] An important delegation of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] led by Lieutenant Daouda Traore has flown to Beijing in the PRC today. After the visit paid by the comrade president of Burkina Faso to that country in November 1984, and the fruitful relations which have developed between the two countries, this mission testifies to the importance of the ties of friendship and fraternity existing between the peoples of China and Burkina Faso.

CEAO Council of Ministers Begins Meeting

AB172205 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] In little over 1 week's time, our country's capital will host the summits of the heads of state of CEAO [West African Economic Community], the Liptako-Gourma Authority and of the ANAD [Nonagression and Defense Aid Agreement]. The last preparatory meetings are being held this week. The first of such meetings is the 22d session of the Council of Ministers of the CEAO, which opened this afternoon at the Congress Hall of the Community's headquarters. Our correspondent, Godfrey Basi, who was at the opening ceremony reports on the highlights:

This ceremony, that brought out a large number of the militants of Kadiogo Province, was attended by the ministers of our revolutionary government as well as those of the participating countries — Benin, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal.

Opening the meeting, CEAO Secretary General Drissa Keita pointed out that following the 10th summit in Bamako — a summit which gave the green light for the implementation of the second round of projects which all fell within the framework of our policy of self-sufficiency in food production — this Ouagadougou summit has come to make concrete the pertinent directives that would enable us to attain our objective of improving the standard of living of our respective peoples. But, what does the agenda of this meeting look like? Let us listen to Drissa Keita:

[Begin Keita recording] The following committees held their meetings: the Committee on Trade Exchanges, the Committee on Rural Development, the Committee on Industrial Development, the Administrative and Finance Committee, and the Committee on Village Water Control. On trade exchanges, the issues discussed concerned the appraisal of the results of the first session on the revision of the agreements signed on (?TCR) [?regional cooperation tax].

As you all know, during its last meeting, our Council of Ministers decided that the status quo be maintained until its 22d session. On the one had, this was to enable some delegations to exchange views on the rates which their home governments apply, and on the other hand, it was to enable the General Secretariat to follow up all matters arising from the revision of the agreements. This survey which centered on the problems arising from the revision of the agreements signed on the TCR, also examined the effects of this revision on the entire orjectives of the community, and led to a proposal for new resources.

In the field of rural development, the common agricultural policy constituted the cornerstone of this committee's deliberations. It must be recalled that from 6 through 10 May 1985, the first meeting of the working group set up under the auspices of the CEAO to exchange and harmonize views on the new national agricultural policies was held. The points deliberated upon during the meeting concern ways to improve the exchange of information, management of the environment, water control, reactivation of production capabilities, transport and communications as well as agro-based industry.

In the field of industrial development, the sixth conference of heads of state had adopted the orientations for the implementation of community and industrial integration projects. The Ministerial Council mandated the General Secretariat to undertake, as soon as possible, the necessary survey for the implementation of this program.

In carrying out this task, the General Secretariat chose to survey some projects. They are the projects for the production and distribution of fertilizer, the production and distribution of steel products, the production and distribution of (?glass) as well as the development of agricultural and water-pumping equipment manufacturing. Concerning the harmonization of investment codes of member states, a survey was carried out in 1981 with the assistance of the UNCTAD. The survey was aimed at attracting capital and technologies, the harmonious spread of investments and the creation of complementary production units within the framework of the integration of our economies.

The administrative and financial experts, for their part, examined the draft budget cof the General Secretariat for 1986. The budget demonstrates a desire for austerity [words indistinct]. As for the village water control committee, its meeting examined in particular the progress made on the first program and the level of the implementation of the second one. [end recording]

Finally, Drissa Keita asked Comrade Justin Damo Barro [Burkina's minister of financial resources] to convey his thanks to the president of the republic, to the revolutionary government and to the entire Burkinabe people for the warm welcome given to the various delegations.

Eyadema, Houphouet-Boigny, Kerekou To Attend CEAO

AB161039 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The summit of heads of state of the West African Economic Community [CEAO], of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement, and the Liptako-Gourma Authority will take place in Burkina Faso at the end of March. To reiterate the invitation of Burkina Faso, the current chairman of the three bodies, to members, missions have been sent to all member and observer countries. Delegations have been to Mali, Niger, Conakry in Guinea, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Benin, Senegal, and Togo.

The Burkinabe delegation sent to Ivory Coast, Togo, and Benin was led by Comrade Captain Blaise Compaore. On his return from the mission yesterday afternoon, the comrade minister of state to the presidency in charge of justice spoke to the press about his mission. He disclosed that the heads of state of the three countries which he visited, that it President Houphouet-Boigny, Matthieu Kerekou, and Gnassingbe Eyadema, would attend the meeting.

Comrade Blaise Compaore also referred to the ordinary session of the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of Ouagadougou which will be held on 25 March. It is at this session that the people of the CEAO will see the end to the CEAO'S 6 billion CFA franc affair. According to Comrade Compaore, procedures at the next trial will be slightly modified since the accused will be defended by their lawyers.

CAPE VERDE

Communique Marks Mauritania's Ould Taya's Visit

LD171115 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Mar 86

["Full text" of the Mauritania-Cape Verde joint communique on the 13-16 March visit to Cape Verde by Mauritanian head of state Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya]

[Excerpts] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, returned to the capital this afternoon from Praia following a 3-day visit to the Republic of Cape Verde. The visit of the head of state to Cape Verde was culminated in the signing of a joint communique; the following is the full text of it, read by colleague Ahmed Yakoub Bernaoui:

At the invitation of the his excellency Aristides Pereira, secretary general of the Party of Independence and president of the Republic of Cape Verde, his excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, paid an official and friendly visit to the Republic of Cape Verde 13-16 March 1986, which was in the framework of consolidating the existing ties of friendship and fraternality between the two coumtries.

The two presidents held talks in an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding, which enabled them to undertake a deep analysis of the existing relations between the two countries, in addition to African, Arab, and international issues. In this respect, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction with their identical views.

Regarding the bilateral relations, the two presidents stressed anew the distinguished nature of the relations between Cape Verde and Mauritania and their determination to develop and consolidate these relations in the framework of the spirit of the fraternity linking the two countries. In this permanent framework, the two presidents stressed the need to exchange delegations and experts, a matter which will help for a mutual acquaintance of the two countries and a correct appraisal for the establishment of cooperation that takes into consideration the development goals in both countries. In this respect the two presidents agreed to exert their efforts to revive and activate, as soon as possible, the greater committee for cooperation between the two countries and to create the necessary institutions that will guarantee a fruitful cooperation between Cape Verde and Mauritania.

The two presidents expressed satisfaction with the colossal task undertaken by the joint committee for combating desertification in the Sahel countries, whose work is within the framework of the battle undertaken by the Sahel Countries Organization against drought and in order to reach a self-sufficiency in the field of food for this region's peoples.

They also expressed their satisfaction with good outcome of the meeting of the presidents and prime ministers of the Sahel Organization member states held in Dakar on 28-29 January 1986. Regarding the reorganization of this organization, the two presidents called upon all members to unite all their efforts in order to contribute to the revival of their joint organization and in order to face up the dramatic situation experienced by the countries of the Sahel. The two presidents called upon the international community to exert more and more efforts that might relieve some of the hardship experienced by the peoples of this region.

GHANA

Rawlings Returns From Sweden, Italy Visits

AB180900 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, returned home this morning after attending the funeral of the assassinated Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme, in Stockholm on Saturday [15 March]. Chairman Rawlings, who was accompanied by the secretary for economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, and Mr Tsatsu Tsikata of the law faculty, University of Ghana, also paid a brief working visit to Italy.

Briefing newsmen at the Kotoka International Airport, Dr Botchway said the massive attendance at the funeral — there were representatives of 130 countries — demonstrated the universal recognition of Mr Palme as the champion of Third World aspirations, peace movements, and his stand on social justice, and a more just world economic order. He said the funeral also provided the opportunity for rededication to the principles Mr Palme fought for. His death, according to Dr Botchway, has increased the determination of the Swedish people in their struggle against apartheid and for social justice.

While in Stockholm, Flight Lt Rawlings also met the prime minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique, and Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua. Discussions during these meetings centered on the implications of Mr Palme's death for the liberation struggle in Africa.

While in Italy, Chairman Rawlings met the Italian foreign minister, Mr Andreotti, and had useful discussions on bilateral issues. Dr Botchway said the second annual meeting on bilateral relations between Ghana and Italy is expected to take place next November. On Italy's role in solving the southern African problem, Dr Botchway said Ghana would like Italy to play a bigger role than it is doing now. This is because unlike some other Western countries, Italy has done nothing against the interest of African states, and its involvement would be more welcome.

Present at the airport to welcome Chairman Rawlings were Captain Kojo Tsikata, the Force Commander, Major General Arnold Quainoo, Brigadier Mensah-Wood, and Alhaji Idrissu Mahama, all of them members of the PNDC. There were also some PNDC secretaries. The inspector general of police, Mr S.S. Omane, and the Air Force commander, Air Commodore J.E.A. Kotei, were there to welcome the chairman.

Rawlings Talks to AFRICA MAGAZINE on National Issues

AB162108 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings has declared that government has not deviated from its goals and that every step taken by the PNDC is towards the building of a solid foundation for the reconstruction of the country.

In an interview published in this month's issue of *AFRICA MAGAZINE*, the chairman expl:ained, we do not want to rush only to fall headlong. He criticized those who accused the PNDC of deviating from its objective and making U-turns and said they are people who are unable to practically contribute to the day-to-day drudgery of working towards the country's goals.

Chairman Rawlings said such people prefer to sit on the sidelines commenting and criticizing but avoiding the risks, weariness and the sacrifice which are necessary parts of the process.

Asked whether Ghana's debts present potential problems for the PNDC's ability to adopt independent political position, the chairman said the government's aim is not to democratize poverty. Rather the government is determined to build a self-sustaining economy which will not depend on aid. He said Ghana is now self-sufficient in the major basic food items and has increased her storage facilities. She can even export maize, yam and a variety of fruits.

Flight Lt Rawlings explained that even though the rehabilitation of the country's major export sector has been expensive in terms of investments it will pay for the country's debtas. Chairman Rawlings said: We began 1982 with debts, empty coffers, broken-down infrastructure, insufficient food production and demoralized people. It was only with a large injection of external funds that we could rehabilitate our economy and at the same time pay for essential imports like oil and drugs. The chairman said: without loans, Ghana would have virtually no export earning.

Flight Lt Rawlings likened the situation to a man who has to dig a well in order to get water for survival. However, the man has no tools and has the choice therefore either to dig with his bare hands or to borrow money to buy tools and then use some of the water from the well to grow vegetables to pay off his debts.

On the role of chiefs in the program of the PNDC, Chairman Rawlings said since Ghana is engaged in a process of social transformation, chiefs can only remain focal points of authority in the society if they adapt to changes and use their authority to mobilize their people for the advancement of their areas. Ghanaians, he said, cannot be divorced from the roots of their traditional values, but traditional institutions are not static and must change with the times.

On the reorganization of the CDRS [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution], the leader of the revolution said, the move is to make them more mature, more practical and more concerned with constructive activities to win friends for the revolution rather than engage in confrontation and antagonism towards those whom they once regarded as enemies. He said the CDRS did some very valuable work in defense of the revolution and in restoring the confidence and pride of the underdog in the country, but at the same time, there was an excess of sometimes poorly directed exuberance and shortage of organizational ability and practical direction.

Flight Lt Rawlings said the reorganization of the PDCS [People's Defense Committee] in 1984 was therefore necessary to correct those mistakes. He added that there has been a great improvement, because they have become a constructive force in communities and workplaces and have won the respect of those who had one time regarded them with reservation or even antagonism.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Authorities Said Appealing for International Food Aid

AB151932 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Lisbon, March 15 (AFP) — The authorities in Guinea-Bissau have appealed for international food aid to offset a projected shortfall of 28,000 tonnes of cereals, the NOTICIAS DE PORTUGAL news agency has said here.

The agency, quoting a document from the small West African country's Planning Ministry, said its estimated needs included 13,000 tonnes of rice, 5,000 tonnes of wheat flour, 500 tonnes of vegetable oil, 300 tonnes of powdered milk and 125 tonnes of butter.

The document described 1985 agricultural production as 'satisfactory' at nearly 119,000 tonnes. However national cereal consumption is estimated at almost 147,000 tonnes per year.

LIBERIA

Doe Establishes Special Economic Crisis Committee

AB151931 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Monrovia, March 15 (AFP) — Liberian President Samuel Doe has set up a 19-man special committee to study the country's crisis-struck economy and come out with ideas on how to improve it, it was announced here on Saturday.

A statement from General Doe's official residence said the new body was set up during a meeting on Friday [14 March] with the heads of the country's main business organisations, including logging companies, the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company, iron ore mining companies, agricultural exporting companies and all banks. The committee also includes the ministers of planning, finance and commerce.

Gen. Doe expressed a wish that it would work "in the supreme interest of the Liberian people" by coming up with "concrete recommendations."

The president is also expected to meet with representatives of the West African country's Lebanese and Indian communities for similar discussions on the economy.

Opposition Leaders, American Arrested, Released

AB171158 Paris AFP in French 1134 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Monrovia, 17 Mar (AFP) — The spokesman of the Liberian Action Party (LAP, opposition), Jackson Doe (no relation to the head of state), and Samuel Dawn, a LAP candidate beaten in the legislative elections of 15 October 1985, were arrested and later released on Sunday, it was indicated by the independent *SUNTIMES* newspaper in Monrovia.

These LAP leaders were arrested "without any specific motive," at the same time as an American national whose identity was not revealed. They were released after 2 hours of interrogation, according to a statement by Jackson Doe to the *SUNTIMES*. According to him, the two men were to deliver a letter to an American friend who was returning to the United States. They were released after 2 hours "of humiliation" and their letter was confiscated, he pointed out.

Jackson Doe was arrested after the abortive coup d'etat of 12 November 1985 against President Samuel K. Doe. He was later released when the government decided not to prosecute him for treason for lack of evidence.

Teachers Deny Reported Refusal To Resume Work

AB180840 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The Monrovia Consolidated Schools' System Teachers' Association has denied news reports that they refuse to accept President Samuel Kanyon Doe's appeal to them to return to their classrooms. The president on Sunday appealed to teachers throughout the country to return to their classes while he personally looked into their problems.

Meanwhile, according to reports, teachers were yesterday reported to be meeting with Education Minister E. Othello Gonga in a bid to resolve the situation.

MALI

DPRK Vice Premier Kim Yong-nam Arrives

AB161110 Bamako Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, arrived in Bamako yesterday evening for a 48-hour official visit to Mali. He was met by Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; his excellency Hong Il-ho, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Mali; and by Baubacar Toure, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mali to the DPRK, resident in Tokyo. He was also met by officials of the ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Beye, Kim Yong-nam at Dinner

AB171400 Bamako Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Alioune Blondin Beye, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation yesterday evening hosted an official dinner in honor of the DPRK vice-premier and foreign minister [Kim Yong-nam] who has been on a friendly working visit to Mali since last Saturday.

This dinner offered the the two diplomats the opportunity to exchange toasts. Speaking to the Korean party, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Blondin Beye, stressed the strengthening of the ties of friendship and cooperation linking our two countries since long ago. Mr Blondin Beye also reiterated the unflinching support of the Malian people to the cause of nonalignment and the independent and peaceful unification of Korea.

[Begin Beye recording] The Republic of Mali, from the time it obtained its independence, has maintained the most friendly relations with all peace-loving and justice-seeking countries, including the DPRK. These relations are strengthened every day in the mutual interest of our two peoples and could serve as an example of Afro-Asian cooperation. Our common will to work together for the realization of our objectives has allowed our cooperation to be enlarged to cover all fields: political, economic, cultural, and social sectors. It is with the constant concern of carrying to its true dimension this invaluable common heritage of friendship, solidarity and sympathy that the leaders of our two countries have never ceased to consult one another and to increase meetings at the highest level.

Mr Minister, the right of Koreans to live together in a united and inalienable fatherland, in an era when people all over the world are asserting their desire for unity and freedom, must be supported.

I wish to take this pleasant occasion to reiterate our solidarity and our unflinching support for the Korean people in their just struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of their fatherland on the basis of the important 10-point proposals put forward by the DPRK and its great leader, Kim Il-song. In this regard, Mali supports the proposal made recently by our Korean friends for a tripartite meeting to find a just and rapid solution to the division of the Korean nation and to reconstitute the Great Korea.

Mr Minister, we in Mali are happy to note that our two governments have identical views on the major international problems. Mali and Korea, faithful to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement, are, more than ever, convinced of the need to uphold the spirit of justice and understanding in international relations in order to ensure a climate of peace and concord among peoples. It is along this line of ideas that the two governments have been working in close collaboration and support all initiatives which have the noble ambition of consolidating the Nonaligned Movement, with a view to establishing a true South-South cooperation which will generate economic and social progress.

Yes, Mr Minister, Mali considers that the solidarity of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America constitutes a real force against the forces of retrogression which are manifesting themselves aggressively, notably in Asia, the Middle East, and southern Africa. And, the peace toward which we deeply aspire will not be safeguarded until an end has been brought to foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries, notably in southern Africa, in Palestine, and in the tension spots in Asia.

Mr Minister, in the struggle which we are waging within the Nonaligned Movement and elsewhere, I am convinced that your country will not spare any effort in continuing to offer its support to the developing countries. I am convinced that your visit to Mali will help to strengthen the friendship and solidarity between our peoples and give a new impetus to our bilateral, many-sided, and mutually beneficial cooperation, in line with the firm wishes of Presidents Moussa Traore and Kim Il-song, two old friends who will soon have the great pleasure of meeting. [end recording]

In reply, the Korean minister of foreign affiars said he was greatly moved by the tireless efforts toward economic development and peaceful coexistence pursued by the party and the government on both the national and international levels.

[Begin Kim Yong-nam recording] It is a great pleasure to undertake this visit to Mali and to its hard-working people with whom we have long had established relations of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity. The discussions which we have had today with your excellency Mr Minister are significant, concrete discussions with sound contents. I could already see through these discussions the identical nature of views of our two countries [words indistinct]. [Words indistinct] and Mali is prospering thanks to the policy of the party and the government headed by his excellency President Moussa Traore. Day by day, Mali has been achieving (?successes) and greatness and has been demonstrating the power of a sovereign and independent state. His Excellency President Kim Il-song has particular and personal relations with His Excellency President Moussa Traore. The relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two countries are based on these relations. [Passage indistinct]

DPRK Expects Traore Visit

AB172229 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign affairs [Kim Yong-nam] on visit to Mali during the past 3 days was just received in audience today on behalf of the head of state, President Moussa Traore, by the BEC [Central Executive Bureau] political secretary. The talks centered on the desire of the Korean people and its leadership to welcome the president of the republic in their country very soon. On this occasion, the Korean minister revealed to the BEC political secretary that preparations for this visit, described as historic, have already started in the Korean capital.

On his part, the BEC political secretary asked the DPRK foreign minister to convey, on behalf of the head of state, friendly and fraternal greetings to the DPRK head of state. [passage indistinct]

Training Center Inaugurated

AB172227 Bamako Domestic Service in French 2015 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The DPRK minister of foreign affairs, Kim Yong-nam, has ended his visit to Mali. Prior to his departure, the Korean foreign minister this morning laid the foundation stone of the advanced training center for diplomats in Badalabougou Ward. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Malian minister of foreign affairs, Alioune Blondin Beye, who was with the DPRK ambassador to Mali, and Boubakar Toure, Mali's ambassador to Korea who is resident in Beijing. With a total area of 1,400 square meters, the new center, which is a personal gift from Kim Il-song to President Moussa Traore, is situated not far from the Cultural Palace, and is totally financed by the Korean side.

At the end of the ceremony, the Malian foreign minister, Alioune Blondin Beye, said that after the Pottery Factory of Mali, the Cultural Palace, and the (?Samanko) irrigated farm, this center will testify to the excellent relations of friendship existing between Korea and Mali. In conclusion, the foreign minister hoped that the center would be inaugurated by Korean President Kim Il-song himself.

NIGERIA

Lagos State Governor Recommends Zero-Party System

AB172046 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] As the political debate heats up in different parts of the country, Governor Gbolahan Mudashiru of Lagos State had recommended what he calls a zero-party system for Nigeria.

Under the system, no political parties will be allowed to operate and people's choice will be based on individuals and their personal merits. Group Captain Mudashiru suggested that this arrangement should be retained for at least 10 years after the return to civil rule in order to prepare the grounds for a permanent political order which would evolve naturally.

According to him, the zero-party system will overcome the inherent instability associated with alien political party systems. The governor, who was speaking members of the Political Bureau touring the state, said it was possible under the system to have electoral or selectoral methods of choosing national leaders. But he opted for the selectoral approach and recommended that the selection of leaders should be based on the existing local governments. Each of them should produce a given number of nominees who will constitute an electoral college that will appoint the executive and legislative candidates. Group Captain Mudashiru stated that members of the electoral college must be men of integrity who had not been identified with party politics in the past. They should include representatives of special groups such as elder citizens, professionals, religious organizations and the business sector.

Army to 'Indigenize' Training; Indian Group Visits

AB170725 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The Nigerian Army is taking steps to fully indigenize its training programs. In this direction, the Commanding Staff College, Jagi, near Kaduna, says it will not renew the contract of any foreign instructor deployed to the institution.

The commandant of the college, Major General Paul (Omu), said, however, that the foreign participation in courses run by the institution would continue on exchange basis. At present Nigeria has an exchange program with Ghana, whereby each country sends two directing staff to each other's college for 2 years.

Meanwhile, an Indian military delegation led by Lieutenant General (Harud Singh) has begun an exchange visit to the college. The team, made up of army, navy, and air force personnel, had already delivered lectures on various military strategies.

SENEGAL

President Abdou Diouf Holds Talks in Austria

For Vienna press coverage of the visit by President Abdou Diouf, including his meetings with Chancellor Fred Sinowatz, see the Austria section of the 18 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

ANGOLA

Red Cross, UNITA Representatives on Hostages

MB171717 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 17 Mar 86

[From the "Focus on Africa" program, introduced by Chris Picketon]

[Text] [Picketon] There are reports that some 200 foreign hostages seized by UNITA rebels in Angola at the begining of this month have been released. They were captured during the rebel raid on a diamond mining area in the northeast. UNITA said they would be marched and trucked over a 1,000 miles south to UNITA's headquarters at Jamba, but now, it seems they have been released prematurely into the hands of the International Committee of the Red Cross in neighboring Zaire. On the line to Geneva, Julian Marshall asked Catherine Parducci of the Red Cross what her information was.

[Begin recording] [Parducci] Well, following the events, you know, which have occurred on 1 March in Andrada, north of Angola, and which have led to the capture of a certain number of foreigners, UNITA has contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross so that we find and clear a way for the transit of these people in a view of repatriation to Europe. So when the [words indistinct] in Geneva has started to do, well, wanted to put everybody in security and avoiding a long and painful march. Following this request, we have asked Zaire if it was possible to organize their transit. Zaire has accepted, so a transit through the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and also in the field in Zaire is organizing this repatriation. Of course, I can understand that we are in contact with the different authorities concerned, which is of course with the various authorities of the country of origin of these people and we are now organizing the practical and technical details of the operation.

[Marshall] But are these people safe and sound?

[Parducci] Well, it is difficult to say. At the moment they seem to be...[changes thought] we have seen them in Zaire, we tried to organize for their security and to put them in security. Today, we sent some food and some clothes so that they have at least something to dress.

[Marshall] And are the Zairian authorities being very cooperative with you?

[Parducci] Well, [words indistinct], of course.

[Picketon] Well, as I said earlier the release of the hostages seems to have been rather premature. UNITA's London representative, Marcos Simondo, is in the studio with me. Marcos, what went wrong?

[Simondo] Well, I don't think you can say, what went wrong, but you should say what went right. We decided to liberate the captives on humanitarian grounds and that's coinciding with the 20th anniversary of UNITA's independence. [as heard] so, that played a great role to liberate the people.

[Picketon] But there have been reports that in fact your route to the south had been actually cut off by MPLA troops.

[Simondo] No, there is no truth to that statement whatsoever. We decided to liberate the people because, mind you, the group was extremely large and there were women and children as well, and so Dr Savimbi indicated that we should find a way of releasing those people as soon as possible. That is why we got in touch with the Red Cross for them to find a quicker way to take the people out of Angola.

[Picketon] There have also been somewhat mysterious reports of some kind of attempted ambush on the column of hostages and UNITA troops.

[Simondo] Yes, there was an attempt by the MPLS, an attempt that was directed by the MPLA chief of staff, Franca Ndalo, who was at Chikapa which is a little bit south of Andrada and he wanted to attack the people so that he can create some kind of problem to UNITA, but fortunately that plan was foiled.

[Picketon] But the fact remains that your original intention was to take the hostages all the way down to Jamba.

[Simondo] Well, that was the original plan, but then when we realized how large the group was and also the composition of the group, which was made up by women and children, it would be extremely difficult and also since UNITA is celebrating now the 20th anniversary of its foundation, we just decided as a humanitarian gesture we should release those people as soon as possible and the Red Cross also cooperated well on the subject.

[Picketon] Marcos Simondo of UNITA, thank you very much.

[Simondo] Thank you. [end recording]

FAPLA Officer Says 90% of UNITA 'Neutralized'

MB140802 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Monteiro, FAPLA deputy chief of General Staff, has given assurances that 90 percent of the UNITA forces deployed by racist South Africa in eastern and southeastern of Angola have already been neutralized. In an exclusive interview with AFP's special correspondent, Bernard Dorter, the deputy chief of General Staff said that the true enemy of the Angolan revolution is South Africa. The acts of agression against the People's Republic of Angola are carried out by regular South African forces and their appendage army made up of Angolan traitors, (?that is, UNITA).

The UNITA bandits, who are supported and encouraged by the Pretoria regime, have since the beginning of 1986 carried out 73 raids on civilian targets, which resulted in 1,100 dead and 1,000 wounded, and over 200 civilians were (?abducted). Lt Col Monteiro told the AFP journalist that since last year, the Angolan Armed Forces have carried out offensives without the assistance of military advisors from friendly countries.

On the presence of the internationalist Cuban troops in Angola, about whom South Africa exerts unwarranted pressure, the FAPLA deputy chief of General Staff told AFP that most Cuban personnel are involved in logistical operations and do not take part in combat operations under any circumstances.

NAMIBIA

Security Forces Kill 18 SWAPO 'Insurgents'

MB151341 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1055 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Windhoek, March 15, SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia have shot dead 18 SWAPO insurgents in various skirmishes over the last nine days, the SWA Territory Force said in Windhoek today.

The latest SWAPO fatalities brought to 173 the number of insurgents "eliminated" since the beginning of the year.

The SWATF said in a statement that since February 22, SWAPO insurgents had abducted 63 civilians in four separate incidents from the Ovambo region, but all of them had been freed by the security forces.

"Thanks to the prompt action and good cooperation of civilians who reported the abductions immediately" the security forces succeeded in setting free the abductees and tracking down a number of insurgents.

The SWATF said 50 of those abducted were children.

It seemed that SWAPO was experiencing a drop in numbers and that the organisation was concentrating on the abduction of children to complement its ranks, the statement added.

School Closed Temporarily After Weekend Unrest

MB171351 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1114 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Windhoek, March 17, SAPA — The Augustineum College outside Windhoek has been closed until April 8 following incidents of unrest at the weekend, the minister of national education in the SWA/Namibian transitional government, Mr Andrew Matjila, confirmed.

The decision was taken after a meeting with the school children today.

Mr Matjila said that when the college reopened all the children would have to be accompanied by their parents to obtain readmission.

"Every parent will have to sign a document that he will abide by the school's regulations and any policy" applied by the Department of National Education, he said.

The students' main grievance centered on the principal of the Augustineum College but it had already been decided some time ago to transfer the principal to another school at the end of term, Mr Matjila added.

Police earlier reported they had fired tear gas canisters at students who had started throwing stones on Saturday evening.

Three policemen were hit by stones and a student broke a leg when he trod into a hole and fell, while windows were broken and a vehicle was damaged, police said.

Students said they had been hit with batons and sjamboks, but police denied the claims.

Members of the police task force were again deployed at Augustineum College last night when renewed unrest flared up, but police reported today that all was quiet at the college after the students had left the grounds.

SOUTH AFRICA

Du Plessis on Defense, Education Spending

MB171510 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1504 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Parliament, March 17, SAPA — The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis today budgeted for an expenditure during the forthcoming financial year of R37,447 billion.

This represented an increase of 19 per cent on last year's figure and a 13.6 per cent increase on the revised figure of R32,977 billion, he said in his budget speech.

Apart from the ten per cent salary increases for public servants already announced, a further R227 million is being made available to enable the continuation on a modest scale programme of job differentiation.

A total of R650.6 million has been provided for housing — an increase of 25.4 per cent on last year's budget — while the total provision for black housing amounts to R311.3 million of this.

For education, still by far the largest expenditure item in the budget, the minister has allocated R6,082 billion, an increase of 19.3 per cent on 1985/86.

"Regarding black education as such, the increase in primary and secondary education outlays is R159 million, or 27.8 per cent above the budgeted amount for 1985/86."

Reiterating the need for South Africa to be fully prepared in the military sphere in order to contain the forces threatening the country, and the heavy financial demands of this, Mr du Plessis said defence was allocated an amount of R5.123 billion, representing 13.7 per cent of the estimated expenditure for the 1986/87 year — a ratio that was virtually the same as that for the previous financial year.

A sum of R775.8 million was provided for the atomic energy corporation [AEC] or an increase of 47.5 per cent over 1985/86.

"If the carry-over costs of expenditures that in 1985/86 were covered by loans of about R157 million, and the redemption in 1986 of AEC loans of 52.5 million, are left out of account the increase for this service is only 7.6 per cent," the minister said.

The government had accepted the Davin commission of inquiry's recommendation that the subsidy on bread be phased out and the subsidy for 1986/87 would be reduced to R150 million from R200 million last year.

On SWA/Namibia, Mr du Plessis said the R476.5 million provided in the budget was R169.5 million, or 55 per cent, more than in 1985/86.

"This sharp increase is not the outcome of large scale extensions but represents the transfer of the responsibility for the provision of certain services from the republic to South West Africa."

If these were left out of account, the increase was only 13.9 percent over the 1985/86 figure of R307 million.

Amounts of R36.3 million were needed for phase two of the compensation of operating losses on railway and road transport services within the territory; R30.5 million for the takeover from the South African Police of police services; and R60 million for foreign loans which had to be redeemed by SWA/Namibia in 1986/87.

Mr du Plessis said the estimates made provision for R5.233 billion for the servicing of public debt, of which R5.195 billion was for interest.

"The interest component is 11.9 per cent above the revised 1985/86 figure and 18.1 per cent above the budgeted figure.

"The increase arises chiefly from the rise in the average rate of interest on government loans."

The state aid to "marginal gold mines — stemming from a time when the price of gold was not market-related and intended as a bridging measure until it rose — would be ended and replaced by an ad hoc scheme judging individual cases on merit. [No end quotation marks as received]

As part of its industrial development strategy, the government had taken steps to provide a suitable mechanism to promote the development and transfer of technology, and had set aside R1.5 million for this in 1986/87.

On Government 'Upliftment' Program

MB171518 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1509 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Parliament, Mar 17, SAPA — The government's three-year "upliftment" programme would be spurred by further cuts in government expenditure and the encouragement of private sector investment in the capital market, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today.

Delivering his budget speech, he said large-scale investment in new undertakings and in the expansion of existing undertakings was needed to provide a basis for sustained economic growth and to create permanent job opportunities for the growing population.

"It is here where the econmic partnership between the public and the private sector must emerge more fully."

The government had decided to follow a two-fold approach in this regard.

Firstly, all capital expenditure by the public sector would be continually reviewed with a view to mplementing economically justified cuts.

"In this way, the public sector's claims on the capital market can be reduced so as to leave more room for investment by the private sector, with a view also to privatisation," Mr du Plessis said.

"It must, however, be clearly stated that, after other possible obstructions have also been removed, the private sector will be expected to make use of this greater scope for investment.

"Long-term projects will have to be tackled that will advance the economic development of all communities and underdeveloped regions and the country as a whole.

"Should this not materialise, the government will be obliged to take up the slack and embark upon the task of development itself, to avoid a charge of standing idly by in the face of the under-utilisation of scarce resources."

In this case, critics would not be able to indict the government for shackling private fixed investment through its own claims on the capital market.

Mr du Plessis said the second leg of the government's upliftment plan was the reduction of spending in the public sector.

"Public expenditure is like a fruit tree that ever grows and bears more leaves," he said. "It would seem that what we have done recently to trim the tree was merely shaking the tree until the leaves fell. But leaves grow again. The tree must certainly be pruned so as to make it smaller, but it must be expertly pruned if its fruit potential is not to be damaged. It must also be pruned continually, since unwanted leaves and offshoots are appearing all the time."

He said the government was serious in its intention to limit spending and had appointed a small, highly specialised task group to help meet its objectives.

The task group, cooperating with top management of government departments, would evaluate relevant aspects of current spending, especially services introduced over the years by the executive authority.

The task group would use various financial techniques such as zero base budget systems and would be on the lookout for chances to introduce user-charging, deregulation and privatisation.

Well-known professional and business leaders and other qualified people had agreed to join the task group and their names would be announced once they had familiarised themselves with their task.

On Provisional Tax Payments

MB171424 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1216 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Parliament, March 17, SAPA — The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, today announced measures aimed at ensuring that provisional taxation accounts be settled earlier.

Introducing his budget, he said the proposed measures would not affect the total or final liability for taxation, but were merely a method to ensure earlier settlement.

In terms of the proposals:

— The total of the first, second and third payments of provisional tax by companies be increased from 90 per cent to 100 per cent of their actual tax liability, with proviso that if the payments amounted to more than the full liability, interest on the surplus would be paid by the state at the prescribed rate. This would apply to years of assessment ending on or after February 28, 1986.

— Provisional taxpayers (other than companies) whose taxable income exceeded R50,000, also be liable for the third payment of provisional tax. As this would be in respect of years of assessment ending on or after February 28, 1987. The first additional payment would be due in August 1987.

The minister said these earlier payments by companies should give the treasury an advanced cash flow of R291 million in 1986-87. The proceeds from individuals would first appear in the 1987-88 financial year.

On Working Wives' Tax Exemptions

MB171623 Johannebsurg SAPA in English 1345 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Parliament, March 17, SAPA — Twenty per cent or a minimum of R1,800 of working wives salaries will in future be exempt from tax.

This was announced by the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, today when he delivered his budget speech to Parliament.

This meant that a married women who presently earned R20,000 per annum would be able to deduct R4,000 as against the present R1,600.

"The entry of married women into the professional and labour market is a world-wide phenomenon, and one that in South Africa with its great shortage of skilled labour power is of growing importance," the minister said.

There were various schemes whereby the problems that had built up around the tax burden of married couples could be eliminated but each suffered from the disadvantage of an unacceptably high loss of revenue to the foscus.

"The search continues for an acceptable compromise between a theoretically sound and an affordable solution," Mr du Plessis said. It was being thoroughly researched by the Margo commission.

"In the meantime the problem of the additional sum that married couples must find on receipt of their assessment has aroused further emotions," he said.

The government had a close understanding of the position of the working wife and to provide interim relief for the working married couple the adjustments were proposed, the minister said. They would apply to the tax year that ended on February 20, 1986.

He said it should be noted that the large sums married couples stood to pay on assessment could not be blamed on the tax structure as such, but rather on the fact that the pay tables for women often did not provide for adequate deductions to meet the actual tax liability.

The commissioner for inland revenue was going to prescribe amended tables applicable to married woman which would come into force from 1st July, 1986 to provide for deductions more in line with the wife's portion of the tax payable on the joint income.

"From the point of view of the exchequer this advance on the collection of tax due will generate a cash flow of R50 million," Mr du Plessis said.

Reaction to Budget Presented by Du Plessis

Labor Party Welcomes Budget

MB171542 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1518 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 17, SAPA — The Labor Party "welcomed" the budget as presented by the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, with reservations over issues including inequality in pensions, the party leader, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, said today.

The party recognised certain realities in terms of supply and demand, he said in a statement here.

"It is regretted that the R36.614 million needed for an increase in pensions and grants towards parity in five years has not been granted to us, but the perpetuation of the principle of equality in the increase of R18 is, however, welcome."

The Labour Party would examine the budget of the House of Representatives "to see whether we can fund a further increase in terms of our determination to reach parity".

"At the moment the gap still remains at R62 between the amounts received by whites (R198) and coloureds (R135) per month."

Mr Hendrickse welcomed the cancellation of the surcharge on books, saying it was an investment in the future, which he believed lay in education. It would also lead to cultural enrichment.

The availability of more money to finance job opportunities and create a source of income for the unemployed was "most welcome".

PFP's Schwarz Criticizes Budget

MB171725 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1703 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 17, SAPA — The budget announced today was an ad hoc measure that gave very little indication of any real assessment of priorities or long-term planning, the PFP [Progressive Federal Party] spokesman on finance, Mr Harry Schwarz, said today.

He said in a statement issued here that the budget contained very few measures to combat inflation and in many respects further stimulated inflationary tendecies. It did not cater in any meaningful way for the problems of the lower income groups, the unemployed and the impoverished, and its figures lacked credibility.

"The present budget shows numerous signs that the figures submitted are unrealistic and that the picture at the end of the year is likely to be quite different."

Mr Schwarz said any money available for tax concessions should have been used to reduce general sales tax [GST] in the light of the high inflation rate and the plight of lower income groups.

"In any event, the tax concessions for individuals are illusionary as the government intends to take, after the concessions, well over an extra R1 billion from the pockets of individual taxpayers by way of income tax compared to last year.

"To this must be added the increased GST of R1.3 billion which the government anticipates collecting this year."

Mr Schwarz said the funds allocated for combating unemployment were still inadequate. This was regrettable because unemployment was and would continue to be a major factor in the stability of the country.

While reflief for pensioners was welcome, it was difficult to understand that removal of race discrimination for military pensions was not also made applicable to war veterans and that the abolition of the means test for survivors of World War I was not extended to ex-servicemen from World War II.

The PFP was opposed to the concept of payroll tax when the need to create jobs was the obvious major priority.

A turnover tax was not an equitable form of taxation and should not have been introduced before the report of the Margo commission on the tax structure. There were more equitable and more easily administered forms of taxation that could be made available to regional services councils.

Mr Schwarz said incentives to save and to form capital were inadequate in view of South Africa's serious international financial situation.

"This budget is an ad hoc affair which seeks to deal with a short-term situation and gives very little indication of any real assessment of priorities or long-term planning, despite the pious words in the budget speech.

"One cannot look at this budget in isolation but needs also to examine it in the light of all the other recent tariff and government-administered price increases.

"One sees nothing in this budget which shows imagination and realism to deal with the major threats to stability, and with the serious economic problems which threaten our ever-increasing population and its legitimate expectations."

Mixed Reaction in Parliament

MB180850 Johannesburg Television Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Reaction to the new budget from political parties in Parliament has been mixed. Marius Kleynhans has this report:

[Begin video] [Kleynhans] In the House of Representatives, Mr Charles Redcliffe of the Labor Party said although priority had been given to socially orientated activities, it was unfortunate that the minister had been constrained to blow further light "as heard" into the economy by this country's inability to raise foreign loans.

The leader of the opposition in that house, Mr Dennis de la Cruz, was disappointed at the lowering of the bread susidy, but welcomed the tax concession for pensioners and married couples. The major parties in the House of Delegates welcomed the budget. The NPP [National People's Party] Mr. Boetie Abramjei, said the decision to peg taxes was indeed a relief to the tax paper, while Mr Kisten Moodley of the Solidarity welcomed the removal of the surcharge, but critical of the government's what he called failure "as heard" to address the underlying causes of inflation: apartheid and the duplication of services.

In the Assembly, the Conservative Party spokesman also accused the government of failing to curb inflation. Mr. Jan Zyl said that the middle and lower income groups would be severely affected. The NRP [New Republican Party], spokesman, Mr Derrick Watterson, said the budget proposals were dull and would not generate the enthusiasm and confidence that was necessary for a real, forward economic surge. The official opposition spokesman of finance, Mr Harry Schwarz, said there was nothing in the budget which showed the imagination and realism to deal with the major threats to stability and with the serious economic problems which threatened the ever-increasing population and its legitimate expectations. Mr Schwarz said a clear characteristic of the budget was the almost total absence of measures to combat inflation.

UDF: Aims To Update Apartheid

MB180835 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0834 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 18, SAPA — Yesterday's budget is "located within the context of (the state president, Mr P.W.) Botha's Rubicon II and aims at effecting the updating of apartheid," the UDF [United Democratic Front] said in a statement today.

The UDF said that short of rejecting the budget completely two major criticisms had to be made.

— It aimed at updating apartheid. "It is well known that Rubicon II was rejected by the UDF at the time. Being contained within the limited framework of Rubicon II this budget cannot conceivably contribute much towards the resolution of the political crisis of apartheid. This is reflected in the fact that total spending — about R360 million — on upgrading apartheid townships is only 12 per cent of the money allocated to defending the status quo."

— Contrary to (the minister of finance, Mr Barend) Du Plessis' claim that this budget aimed at meeting the needs of the people, "it in fact continues the trend of forcing the poorer sections of our population especially blacks to carry the major burden of apartheid."

The UDF said phasing out the bread subsidy and maintaining GST continued to constitute an attack on the already eroded standard of living for blacks.

"The greater burden on the black population is in stark contrast to the much lower proportion of total revenue contributed by companies especially the gold mines over the last five years."

The UDF said company tax rates had, in fact, been virtually unchanged in this budget. This was an attempt by an embattled government to stimulate economic growth, but the simultaneous adoption of monetary supply targets was likely to prove counterproductive.

"As a result of this policy, prospects are for increases in interest rates and inflation and further drops in employment and real wages. Together with this direct impact on the cost of living, the effects of this budget are likely to fuel political resistance rather than stem it. For any real solutions there have to be real changes to the system in this country. This budget, like previous ones, still refuses to address itself to this fact," the UDF said.

KaNgwane Government Says NIS Threatens Mabuza

MB180558 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The Government of KaNgwane claims the South African National Intelligence Service [NIS] has been interferring in the homeland's affairs since its chief minister returned from talks with the ANC. Carmel Rickard has the story.

[Rickard] In a statement by the KaNgwane Government released last night, the Cabinet claims the South African NIS has threatened KaNgwane leader Enos Mabuza, who recently had talks with the ANC in Lusaka. The Cabinet says that a certain Mr du Plessis, who has identified himself as a member of the NIS, has made menacing remarks about Mr Mabuza. This included a threat that Mr Mabuza was digging his own grave. The alleged agent went on to say: Either he will die or he will go to prison. We are looking for a leader to replace him. The Cabinet is to demand an explanation from the South African Government, and will protest to the South African commissioner general for KaNgwane against what it called the gross interference by the secret intelligence agency.

Bannings of Fazzie, Jack To Be Reconsidered

MB181128 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The chairman of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mr Rocky Ridgeway, says the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has informed two Port Elizabeth businessmen that restrictions placed on two black community leaders will be reconsidered by a review committee if a written request is made in that regard.

Mr Ridgeway led a 4-member delegation of Port Elizabeth businessmen during talks in Cape Town with Mr Le Grange, regarding the recent restrictions placed on the chairman of the Port Elizabeth Youth Congress, Mr Mkhuseli Jack, and the vice chairman of the eastern Cape branch of the United Democratic Front, Mr Henry Fazzie.

The restrictions were imposed last Tuesday in terms of the Internal Security Act, and are applicable for 5 years.

Amanzimtoti Bomb Suspect Attacked in Court

MB180953 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] There has been drama in the Amanzimtoti Christmas bomb blast case as the man who admitted he planted the bomb has been attacked in court. Carmel Rickard reports:

[Rickard] The father of a teenaged girl who died in the blast threw a punch at the KwaMashu youth accused of laying the bomb. The man was wheeling his son from the court where he had been giving evidence when the incident occurred. Accused Andrew Zondo tried to jump backward from the dock to avoid the assault, and narrowly missed falling down the steps to the cells. At the same time, a man in the public gallery, referring to the accused, shouted: "Kill him." After order was restored, the presiding judge Ray Leon said no one was to lay a hand on the accused during the trial. Other people hurt in the explosion gave evidence today, including the mother of a woman expecting triplets, who is in danger of losing the babies following the blast.

Police Spokesman Comments on Guguletu Funeral

MB160558 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1822 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 16 SAPA — A teargas volley sent hundreds of Guguletu mourners running for cover at the end of yesterday's mass funeral which saw open defiance of a magisterial order banning any political content in speeches delivered during the service for seven alleged African National Congress guerillas.

An initial crowd of about 6,000 people swelled to 15,000 and then to over 30,000 — it was impossible to accurately estimate the final total — in a day which saw Guguletu become a virtual stronghold of the African National Congress.

But approached for comment this afternoon a police liaison office for the western Cape Lt Attie Aubscher stated categorically that, "We observed the crowd from our police helicopter and we estimated that there were not more than 3,000 people present at any stage of the funeral. To say there were 30,000 mourners is incorrect and false".

Security forces threw a solid cordon of casspirs, buffels, sneeze machines and police vans around the township, but non- residents and journalists proceeding to the funeral were allowed through after being warned that entry was at their "own risk".

The coffins of Mr Mandla Simon Mxinwa, Mr Zola Alfred Swelani, Mr Godfrey Jabulani Miqa, Mr Christopher Piet Mr Themba Mlifi, Mr Zabonke John Konile and Mr Themba Madiyane were draped with ANC flags throughout the ceremony.

Around 4pm, as a huge crowd marched into old Klipfontein road, about 2,000 mourners charged a police unit near the N2 highway. The police unit retreated to a casspir.

Around 5pm, when several hundred mourners marched singing to within about 100 metres of four casspirs and four vans at a police roadblock, police opened fire with a volley of teargas. As far as could be ascertained, no birdshot or rubber bullets were fired.

The 8am police unrest report from Pretoria said today that teargas was fired after police vehicles were stoned, but Lt Laubscher said today, "There were no stones thrown at the police. Police used minimum force by firing teargas at several hundred marchers who came within 50 metres of a police roadblock".

2,000 Haggie Rand Striking Workers Dismissed

MB171258 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1250 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 17, SAPA — Haggie Rand Limited today "considered as dismissed" 2000 workers who have staged a sit-in strike at the company's Jupiter and Germiston factories for almost two weeks. Company management had given the workers until midday today to return to work or face dismissal.

Mr Dave Thompson, group personnel manager for Haggie Rand, said: "The midday deadline has passed and the workers are considered as dismissed. We have not yet decided what action to take but we may know by this afternoon."

Earlier, he said the company may consider seeking a supreme court interdict to have the workers forcibly evicted but no decision had been reached yet.

Mr Bernie Fanaroff, national organising secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers Union [MAWU] — to which most of the workers belong — said they had met Mr John Feek, chairman of the board of Haggie Rand this morning and alleged he was "intractable and abusive."

"He said the company would not give in to the workers' demands and would rather dismiss them. We are sick and tired of the workers earning starvation wages when their company report showed that they increased their profits by 21 per cent since last year," Mr Fanaroff said.

He said MAWU had contacted the International Metalworkers Federation to inform them that they alleged much of Haggie Rand's products were exported to countries including Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mr Thompson said about 60 workers had returned to work before the midday deadline.

Denying an earlier report that the company had lost "millions" due to the strike, Mr Thompson said: "We have been underutilising our capacity. We will have to make up these losses in the near future."

NUM 'Strongly' Condemns Blyvooruitzicht Management

MB171504 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1458 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 12, SAPA — The National Union of Mineworkers [NUM] today "strongly condemned" the actions of management at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine near Carletonville where seven men were killed in clashes with police and mine security guards on Friday night.

Mr Marcel Golding, press officer for the NUM, said the 1500 workers, who had been on strike since last Sunday, were "intending to go to work on Friday night."

He said negotiations had been held between NUM and the workers and it had been agreed that they return to work.

"The unprovoked arrest of two shaft stewards on Friday angered the workers. We strongly condemn management's decision to call in the police because these uneccessary deaths could have been avoided."

Mr Golding said it was "sinister" that police were being used more and more often "to suppress purely industrial disputes."

He said the strike had been peaceful all week and accused mine management of "collusion" in the deaths of the four miners allegedly killed by police during the clashes. Two miners were found murdered in their hostels, and a security guard working on mine property, but not employed by the mine, was also killed.

About 7000 workers returned to work this morning, and a mine spokesman said they expected the night-shift of 1000 to work as well.

Intervention Prevents Orkney Mine Violence 16 Mar

MB171552 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1547 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 17, SAPA — Intervention by mine security officials and management prevented another outbreak of faction fighting at the Vaal Reefs mine near Orkney last night, the scene of clashes that left eight workers dead and at least 66 injured on Saturday, a spokesman for the Anglo American corporation, said today.

He said the "friction was apparently caused by provocation between various parties following alleged demonstrative action which referred to the deaths of four team leaders which had occured at No 5 Shaft Hostel on the night of February 18/19 this year."

The statement said the opposing groups which had started to confront each other were "timeously stopped by management." No injuries or deaths occured.

He said mine manager, Mr R.J. Fisher, and production manager, Mr J. Botha, together with other officials interviewed members of the opposing groups and "after prolonged discussions the morning shift went to work as normal".

The spokesman said all the shafts were quiet today and shifts were working normally.

Press officer for the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Marcel Golding, said he had heard that "there was some trouble at the mine last night but I cannot confirm this until our shop stewards report back later."

The eight workers were killed on Saturday night at the No 3 shaft after running battles between Xhosa and Sotho workers that left at least 66 injured.

Six Miners Killed 17 Mar

MB181022 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1018 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] [No dateline as received] — Six black mine workers were killed last night during fighting between Xhosa and Basotho employees at No. 5 Shaft Hostel of the west division of Vaal Reefs gold mine near Orkney, a spokesman for Anglo-American Corporation said in a statement this morning.

Eight were seriously injured and hospitalised and two are in a critical condition.

The intervention of the mine security and management prevented the fighting from continuing. Discussions were held with the two groups and about 1,250 miners have resigned. The employees' resignations are now being processed, the spokesman said.

The spokesman declined whether to say those that resigned were Basotho or Xhosa.

Body of Mamelodi Policeman Found With Bullet Wounds

MB171733 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1729 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 17, SAPA — The body of a police constable was found in his home in Mamelodi near Pretoria today, police said.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Division said investigations revealed the constable had bullet wounds. He added that a murder docket had been opened but investigations thus far could not link the death with unrest.

Police said the man's name has been withheld until his next of kin had been notified.

Saulsville Police Spray Teargas, Injure Children

MB171349 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1107 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 17, SAPA — Four Saulsville children had to be treated by a local doctor after teargas had been sprayed into their home on Saturday.

Kenneth Vukela (7) and his younger brothers, Lucas, Geoffrey and younger sister Irene, of 1 Masopha Street, were overcome by teargas sprayed into the house by policemen who had chased a group of youths. The children were playing in the house when the incident happened.

The youths ran into the house and locked the doors and only came out after police had sprayed teargas through the window.

Rosinah Vukela (16), said she was asleep in the bedroom when she heard a commotion. She said the bedroom was turned upside down during the tussle between the police and the youths.

Rosinah said she was questioned by the policemen who alleged that she was one of the youths they had chased. I pleaded with them and told them that I was not involved and they left me.

Alexandra Students Return to Classrooms

MB171222 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1119 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 17, SAPA — Pupils of Alexandra township, who had been boycotting classes since the outbreak of unrest in their residential area, flocked to their classrooms this morning in response to a call by their leaders and some community leaders.

Schools in the area had been completely deserted by pupils over the past four weeks as a protest against the detention of some of their colleagues.

High schools and secondary schools in the area reported an "encouraging turnout" this morning.

During last week pupils have been trickling back to their classrooms "but the attendance figures were nothing to write home about", one teacher said.

This morning's improved attendance is attributed to a meeting student leaders held on Friday to encourage their colleagues to return to their classrooms.

At the Realugile and the Minerva high schools half of their enrollments were registered this morning. They each had 540 out of 900 and 520 out of 1036, respectively.

Attendance at the Alexandra Secondary School was higher with 740 out of 1145. There were higher attendance figures at primary schools as these are generally regarded as being bullied by older pupils not to go to school.

Attendance figures, according to teachers, are expected to improve tomorrow as the hesitant pupils realise they have been left behind. It is expected that some pupils could have left the area, having been taken to other schools by their parents.

Organisations that were at pains to encourage pupils to return to their classrooms were the Alexandra Students Congress, Alexandra Youth Congress, the Alexandra Civic Association and the Alexandra Action Committee, the last two being adult organisations.

Teargas Canister Explodes at Railway Station

MB171405 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1400 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Mar 17, SAPA — A teargas cannister was detonated in the charge office of the South African Railways Police at the Johannesburg station, causing pandemonium and forcing 100 children to flee the exclusive blue room before they had finished their meals, a railways police spokesman said today.

Major Dries Jacobs, liason officer in Johannebsurg, said the incident happened on Friday just before 3pm.

Fumes from the cannister prevented police from entering the charge office and Woman Constable Ems Myburgh collapsed and had to be carried out as she was in the office when the cannister was thrown.

About 100 school children fled the blue room and left meals valued at R200. The post office and railway cafeteria was closed until the fumes dissipated. Maj Jacobs said they were investigating the incident.

Police Defuse Limpet Mine Found in Cafe

MB171718 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1714 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 17, SAPA — A limpet mine was found in near [as received] a cafe and was defused by police in a nearby open piece of veld, police said today.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Division could not give details as to what time today or exactly where the mine was found.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 17 Mar

MB171706 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1705 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 17, SAPA — Here follows the unrest report up to 7pm issued by the SAP's Public Relations Division in Pretoria.

"At Mamelodi, near Pretoria, a group of blacks stoned an SAP vehicle. One black man was slightly injured when the SAP made use of shotguns.

"At Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, blacks petrol bombed and extensively damaged a delivery vehicle.

"At Dikane, near Hartbeesfontein, arsonists extensively damaged two lorries.

"At Umasizakhe, near Graaf Reinet, students of the Nqweba school are boycotting classes in sympathy with youths appearing in the circuit court on a charge of murder."

Report ends.

Early 18 Mar

MB180830 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0747 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 18, SAPA — The overnight unrest situation report to 8am from the SAP Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria follows:

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Ikageng near Potchefstroom a lorry was damaged by arsonists.

"At Maraiplaas in the SWD (South Western Districts) a post office vehicle was stoned. During an incident when a bus was destroyed by arsonists, unknown persons from a mob shot at the driver and his white supervisors. The supervisors returned the shots with revolver fire. It is unknown if anyone was injured. In a number of incidents vehicles of the SAP were stoned. The SAP used shotgun fire to disperse their attackers. Three men and one woman were arrested. Another man was arrested when a mob barricaded a road. No injuries were reported.

"At Mamelodi near Pretoria roads were barricaded on three occasions and a private vehicle was destroyed by arsonists.

"At Zwide near PE (Port Elizabeth) a police vehicle was petrol-bombed and another stoned. A council member's home was petrol-bombed. Here the SAP used shotgun fire to defend the dwelling. No injuries were reported.

"At Soweto (PE) vehicles of the SAP and railway police were stoned and petrol-bombed. On two occasions shotgun fire was used to disperse the attackers. One man was fatally wounded.

"At Seisoville in the OFS [Orange Free State] the vehicle of a councillor was stoned. A youth was fatally wounded when the councillor used shotgun fire to disperse his attackers.

"In the black residential area Dennilton near Groblersdal, a number of private vechicles were stoned and petrol-bombed. On the main road near Groblersdal vehicles were stoned on two occasions. Two white women and a child were injured.

"At Kanon Qaba near Mossel Bay a vehicle of the SAP was forced to stop by a mob which stoned it. The SAP used shotgun fire and tearsmoke to disperse their attackers. Three men in the mob were injured."

Ends report.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

[Editorial Report]

School Funds Scandal

Johannesburg *THE SUNDAY STAR* in English on 16 March reports on its front page that "millions of rands of taxpayers' money has been spent by the Transvaal Education department on secret subsidies for hundreds of white pupils from Zimbabwe and Botswana who are attending Government schools in the Northern Transvaal." At least R1.5 million has been paid out to cover boarding fees. "South African pupils, on the other hand, are not receiving any financial aid, and requests for help by some parents have been turned down." "The disclosures have shocked educationists and politicians. They are certain to have far-reaching political implications — at home and internationally — when the full extent of the secret subsidies and the reasons why they were allocated, become known." A related article reports that these subsidies were paid "apparently without the approval of the Transvaal Provincial Council," controlled by the National Party.

Tainted Money

David Breier, political correspondent, reports from Cape Town on page 2 that "a controversial decision has been taken to transfer control of millions of rand of 'tainted' apartheid money to the coloured and Indian chambers of Parliament. The white chamber has already decided to take its share. The money represents Government profits from the resale of 'group areas' properties expropriated mostly from black, coloured and Indian people over many years of Nationalist rule." A sum of R5 billion is at stake to be divided among the three "own affairs" administrations. Although some comes from treasury loans, a large amount represents "profiteering on the victims of forced removals under the Group Areas Act."

UK Actors Boycott

A report from London on page 6 says that members of Britain's Equity actors union are voting on a proposal "to impose a complete cultural boycott on South Africa. This would mean no films or television features whatsoever would be available for screening, and equity members could be prevented from appearing in South Africa until apartheid in all its forms has been dismantled." The referendum closes 9 April and the paper says there is "a very real chance" that it will be successful.

Mandela Opportunity

A report from Lusaka says the " 'window of opportunity' for the imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela will not remain open indefinitely" according to "elements of the diplomatic community in Southern Africa." They noted that the Russians had rejected releasing any more dissidents, which would satisfy the conditions of the most recent South African offer. However, there was still a possibility that some compromise could be worked out on the renunciation of violence condition involving "more than one interpretation of the condition." Some diplomats believe the South African Government wants to release Mandela "but they do not want the release to be used by the ANC for its own tactical purposes."

'Wet Bag' Torture

Four witnesses testified in Johannesburg Regional Court that when arrested by police last year, they were not advised of the nature of the police investigation against them, had suffered the "wet bag" treatment, had been threatened with a 14-day detention and had suffered irritant gas, the paper reports on page 9. One person said the moistened canvas bag was placed over his head so he could not breath and he lost consciousness three times.

Brain Drain Boosted

On the same page, John Spira reports that "current Government policies actually encourage unnecessary emigration by providing a powerful financial incentive to do so." The chairman of Liberty Life Group told shareholders that in addition to the usual reasons for the brain drain, some people left in order to have "access to a measure of diversification of their assets," a not unreasonable objective in the current climate. He urged that the government take action "to place resident South Africans in no worse a financial position than those emigrating."

New PFP MP

"Firebrand Prog Mr Jan Van Eck says the tricameral Parliament is a 'parliamentary abortion' and a 'three-eyed monster.' He has now been nominated by the Progressive Federal Party as its candidate in Claremont — the seat vacated by Dr F van Zyl Slabbert. This means Mr Van Eck will almost certainly become a member of the 'parliamentary abortion,' " David Breier reports on page 10. His nomination and the nomination of Jasper Walsh to run for Dr Alex Boraine's seat in Pinelands "strengthened the new direction of the PFP, especially in the Cape, towards greater militancy outside of Parliament." Mr Van Eck has been spearheading the PFP effort to monitor police brutality.

New Johannesburg Mayor

The new Progressive Federal Party mayor of Johannesburg, Prof Harold Rudolph, is being counted on to cool feelings in the city, David Breier reports on page 12. Further school and consumer boycotts as well as strikes are anticipated and this could increase unrest. The city's centenary celebrations have been wrecked by a black boycott. Rudolph has said he wants to emphasize his "togetherness" theme; "I want to change the hearts and minds of the people. We can be united together in a common love of South Africa. Divided in bitterness and hatred, we will fall." However, the president of the Soweto Civic Association said the new mayor had so far made no impact on the people of Soweto.

Rule by 'Comrades'

In another article on the same page. Qwelane reports that "people in Kagiso and Munsieville in Krugersdorp on the West Rand claim that a group of men calling themsleves the 'Comrades' are governing their township." According to the talk in these townships, the Comrades are actually maintaining law and order and many residents "freely express gratitude for what they see as their sterling work," saying they are helping to clean up crime. The comrades " 'effectively took over' " the townships in December and since then there have been no murders or serious crimes. Furthermore, this phenomenon is spreading to other areas, such as the Eastern Cape. "People's Courts" hand out quick justice, and street committees are formed, with anonymous members, to run the affairs of the townships. If someone is detained, others fill in. Street committees kept records in Alexandra showing that 46 people had died even though police insisted the number was 22.

Inkatha-ANC Struggle

"Inkatha is locked in a life-and-death struggle with the African National Congress," David Breier reports on page 1 and 2 of the "Review" section. Both are beginning to achieve direct control over sections of what the Nationalist Party used to call "white South Africa." They are using different approaches, however, the Inkatha using the "so-called KwaNatal option in which it will probably control both KwaZulu and Natal jointly with the Natal Provincial Administration" and the ANC "comrades" "are in effective control of a number of black dormitory townships on the periphery of towns and cities in 'white' South Africa." Inkatha would like its option to move from being purely executive to having a legislature and it also wants it to be adopted as a model for all of South Africa. "But Inkatha's plans run directly counter to those of the ANC. The ANC warns that the KwaNatal option could become a seriously divisive element in South Africa. Similarly, Inkatha condemns the ANC's use of violence. So both Inkatha and the ANC reject each other's strategies as they strive for advantage."

Talks on ANC, Mandela

The Johannesburg *SUNDAY TIMES* in English for 16 March reports on page 1 that the possible release of Nelson Mandela and the future status of the ANC are again in the forefront after the visit of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group [EPG]. It is believed that the EPG submitted at least two substantive proposals involving the ANC to the government after "intensive and highly secret" discussions. The article says the EPG met Nelson Mandela on Wednesday "for several hours," "a significant concession by Pretoria to the visitors." The South African Government is reported to have been "much impressed" with the EPG's determination to maintain a low profile — "in marked contrast with, say, comparable visiting groups from the United States Congress."

Revolution in Universities

"A quiet revolution has begun in South Africa's universities. The Africanisation of the student body has begun," an article on page 2 reports. A paper produced by Dr James Moulder, director of public affairs at the University of Cape Town, says that by the year 2000 " 'there will be a steady decline in the number and proportion of white students.' " There are now 14,400 black matriculants and 26,800 white ones. The year 2000 is expected to see 25,500 white matriculants — a reduction caused by the drop in the white birth rate — while 41,800 blacks should matriculate.

Outcry Over Resettlement

Another article on page 2 says that a government program to resettle about 500 colored families now living in the riot-torn township of Alexandra is "enraging" a Conservative Party community on the North Rand. The site is a few hundred meters from two elite suburbs outside Pretoria and "enraged" citizens of the suburbs who believe the government is creating a Crossroads-style squatter camp with inadequate services and roads on their doorsteps. The office of the minister of constitutional development is preparing an announcement on the situation which is expected "next week."

Botha Unwelcome at Palme Funeral

THE SUNDAY TIMES reports on page 9 that State President P.W. Botha was one of only four world leaders officially declared unwelcome at the funeral of Swedish Premier Olof Palme. A spokesman for the state president's office had " 'no comment' " on the report.

Praise for Natal Indaba

Another editorial calls Natal's indaba next month an attempt by black and white South Africans "to secure their future through discussions without preconditions." The conference could result in a "political and economic model of surpassing importance for the whole country," and the government has the opportunity for "part-paternity in a brave new initiative."

Column on Government Mismanagement

In "Another View" column on the editorial page, Ken Owen says the government's capacity to shoot itself in the foot has become a national joke and an international legend. Leaving aside the catastrophic mismanagement of the central questions of South African policies, or the collapse of public and personal security, consider just the mismanagement of the economy. Since 1981 the gross domestic product has grown by 1.1 percent but the population has increased by more than 10 times that figure and the cost of government by nearly 100 times as much. "The trouble is not that President Botha doesn't know what to do; the trouble is that he doesn't know how to do it," Owen says. For his first 5 years in office he promised to cut the size of government and eliminate rompslomp [red tape]. "He didn't reorganize government; he simply stirred it a bit." As government grew, so did taxes and the cry of tax reform went up. "Under the guise of shifting taxes from producers to consumers, and thereby encouraging the production of wealth," the general sales tax was introduced. It quickly turned out to be an addition, not a replacement for the old income taxes. Again the budget went out of control and President Botha talked about stopping civil servants overspending. "It soon turned out that he knew no more about controlling spending than he knew about cutting rompslomp," Owen says. "Every six months brings another bright idea that didn't work. Mr Botha has perfected a system of rule by fits of inspiration." Even reform proceeds by fits and starts. The very idea of reform has been discredited by the spectacle of officials and politicians "wandering about the country trying ineptly to find somebody to negotiate with them" while the security forces systematically pick off the people "who might (if they cared to risk their lives) help to get a process of negotiation going." "Bad government is giving way to no government at all," Owen concludes.

Threat of Vigilantism

In an article on the editorial page, Brian Pottinger says "vigilantism has now become a threatening factor" in South Africa — matured in 18 months of simmering unrest and dedicatedly kept alive by a mix of revolutionary design, black frustration, state counterviolence and sidewalk brigandry. On one level is the "posturing neo-facists on the far right," reflecting the white right wing's lack of faith in the ability of the police to maintain order. "But it is within the black community itself that a virtually unrecorded war of increasing intensity is being waged between vigilantes and black political activists," Pottinger says. The death toll is mounting daily and the vigilantes are acting with "increasing openness." The profusion of vigilante action is leading to an "ominous swing in the black townships towards warlordism." If the drift continues, Pottinger says, the end scenario is grim: "The 'Beirutisation' of the country's black townships into competing but isolated family clans with little support in the communities. All this, meanwhile, overseen by what some would see as a manipulative police presence."

PFP's Schwarz on Discrimination

An article in the *SUNDAY TIMES* op-ed page by Harry Schwarz, Progressive Federal Party MP, says the entrenchment by law of discrimination has created the major problem in the eyes of not only the outside world, but in race relations in South Africa. "It is Parliament which has enacted these discriminatory laws; it is therefore for Parliament to repeal them." Members of the House of Representatives and House of Delegates have to demonstrate to their people why they are participating in the system, they have to produce beneficial results, Schwarz says. "The governing party owes it to those who have shown confidence by operating within Parliament not to block the move to appoint a committee to review all laws with a view to removing all discriminatory provisions." Discriminatory provisions must not be replaced by provisions "which are viewed, rightly or wrongly, as entrenching a privilege in another way. If apartheid goes, it must really go and not re-appear in a less ugly guise," Schwarz concludes.

Namibian Lessons for RSA

Writing on the lessons the Namibian experience holds for South Africa, political correspondent Max du Preez says on the op-ed page that the "ridding of pass laws, homelands, exclusive residential areas and segregation in public facilities has taken away a lot of the hatred and frustration in Namibia." Windhoek has a "fairly large black middle class" that has become "remarkably moderate" as their socio-economic position and prospects have improved. Du Preez cautions, however, that though SWAPO has been beaten on the battlefield, there is "no sign that the movement's internal political support has waned in the least." He attributes this is part to the low credibility of the security forces among the population. "Hatred for the South African security forces still accounts for the single most important unifying factor among black revolutionaries." The security forces' strong-arm tactics have been the most counter-productive action over the last two decades and its assessments, and consequently, advice to the South African Government, "have often been off mark. A cautionary lesson about an increasing military role in South African politics is thus sounded." Many blacks, Du Preez syas, still feel enslaved and oppressed despite the fact that the government is predominatly black. "What they seem to need is a symbolic gesture or happening to release that emotional feeling of 'being liberated.' " Many people are asking whether they can afford to do without the leadership qualities of the external SWAPO leadership. "The dilemma, in the South African context, is equally acute," Du Preez concludes.

Locust Plague

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans on 13 March reports on page 1 that the present locust plague is one of the worst the country has experienced in the past 100 years, and the government has 2,500 people working full-time trying to control the locusts which are now threatening one-third of the country's land surface. Reporter Hendrik van der Walt says the insects are now infesting the Western Transvaal and Northern Organge Free State, the country's major food-growing region.

VADERLAND on Natal Option

In an editorial on page 8 the paper says any attempt to create workable structures in South Africa through negotiation is to be welcomed, and the Natal-KwaZulu efforts is one such. "This is also the region with a totally unique compositon, problems, and circumstances. And that is precisely the characteristic of South Africa. The variety of peoples, circumstances, and even geographical factors mean a uniform system for the whole country is not possible." The paper says it believes the attempt should be given a chance to prove itself.

Reaction to Subsidies

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 17 March reports on page 4 that a Transvaal executive committee member in charge of education has promised to personally investigate reports that white students from Zimbabwe and Botswana were receiving preferential subsidies. "Educationists in Pretoria, asked to comment on the situation — if it really existed — said they could see no harm in it." These students had traditionally gone to school in the Transvaal because the schools were better, they said. One teacher said the report was "an irresponsible action by the newspaper to try and stir up trouble for white parents in Botswana and Zimbabwe, and between South Africa and those countries."

TV Blockade

In its editorial on page 6, the paper discusses the possibility that U.S. and British films will be banned from South Africa, saying that the country can do without American films and other "contributions to plastic living." However, those who wish to ban the films should note that programs featuring black actors break down stereotypes in the country and that SABC-TV "also helps to break down prejudices with black presenters and a mixing of the races that would have been unheard of a couple of years back." However, "having anything to do with South Africa is regarded as a contribution to the maintenance of the apartheid system, which is a balderdash." "Our view is simple: There should not be any bans on television features because such bans serve no purpose, are counterproductive, hit all sections of the community and deprive people of freedom of choice." Tightening restrictions on plays would be a "disgrace" "for the stage has led the way in the breakthrough against apartheid and theatre here is mostly integrated."

CITIZEN on Crocker

Johannesburg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 15 March carries an editorial on Dr Chester Crocker's statement reported in the *WASHINGTON POST* that the U.S. favored majority rule in South Africa and the White House statement that he had been trapped into making the statement. "As an experienced diplomat, he does not fall into any trap set by anyone, least of all Congressman Wolpe," the paper says. "Dr Crocker, when he slams South Africa, or when he talks of majority rule, knows what is expected of him" at a time when the administration is under pressure to impose more sanctions. "But it is a dangerous game. South Africa is not going to hurl in the towel for the sake of America." "We had better wake up to the fact that America's interests in this region do not coincide with ours, and while America says we must decide for ourselves what kind of country we want to have, it wants majority rule. Dr Crocker was not trapped into saying that. He meant what he said."

Alexandra Councillor Quits

Albert Maphala, a member of the Alexandra Town Council, resigned this week, bringing the number of councillors who have resigned to four, Johannesburg *SOWETAN* in English on 17 March reports on page 3. The resignation was welcomed by the president of the Alexandra Youth Congress. Maphala's resignation "left the council near collapse as other councillors expressed their wish to quit." If one more resigns, the council will not be able to form a quorum. In Benoni, the first chairman of the local village council said he would resign this week.

SOWETAN on Violence

In its editorial on page 4, the *SOWETAN* expresses concern about the recent petrolbombings as well as the clash between police and miners at the Blyvooruitzicht mine. "We are afraid the minister of law and order has lost control of his ability to contain the countrywide violence. This is caused by the fact that violence has become the norm in most incidents in which blacks are involved." The paper is surprised to what extent police are protected, both in South Africa and abroad. "In this country particularly the type of clout they have has forced them to believe they are the actual rulers. This is totally unacceptable and if the police cannot be held accountable for the increase in tension countrywide, then the minister concerned should resign."

Teachers Join Struggle

"The African Teachers' Association of South Africa (ATASA) has finally crossed the line and thrown its lot behind the black political struggle against apartheid," Themba Molefe reports in a "Focus" article on the same page. ATASA's decision to break links with the Department of Education and Training "is the most radical by the formerly conservative ATASA since it was established in 1921." It delivered the government a "devastating blow" at a time when it is faced with its worst crisis in black education since 1976. Said the ATASA president: " 'We realised that we were working away from the people. We now want to work for an education system which will involve the people from grassroot level. The people must control their education, which is in the hands of a few who decide for us.' "

CAPE TIMES on Bannings

Commenting on page 8 on the banning of two Eastern Cape black leaders, the Cape Town *CAPE TIMES* in English for 14 March says as usual, "it is not just the government that suffers when it shoots itself in the foot, but the country as well." Dr Chester Crocker, "the man who was prepared to help win South Africa time and support while it worked out its problems no longer believes the government means what it says." The Port Elizabeth bannings, the editorial concludes, shows the government is "not prepared either for real negotiation or real power-sharing. That worries Dr Crocker. It should make South Africans genuinely concerned about the future of their country."

Editorial on TV, Violence

Applauding the home affairs minister for withdrawing the expulsion order against three CBS television newsmen, another editorial says that violence has nevertheless continued unabated in the townships despite the prohibition on TV teams. The only difference is that viewers are "no longer horrified" by the excesses which simply take place out of sight of all but the township residents. It is significant, the editorial says, that despite the presence of the CBS crew at Alexandra, no outbreaks of violence occurred. "Equally significant, the police kept away from the funeral proceedings."

Letter From Police Commissioner

The *CAPE TIMES* prints on page 8 a letter from the commissioner of police, General P.J. Coetzee, criticizing the paper for adopting "for a long time now" a "very biased and slanted attitude towards the South African Police in both your editorial comment and your news presentation of factual events." The letter says the *CAPE TIMES* has adopted a policy of " 'trial by newspaper' " and criticizes coverage by the paper of a shootout in Guguletu earlier this month between police and a "group of armed men." Accusing the paper of publicly expressing its "disregard for the police-press agreement by failing to comply with the accreditation of certain journalists" he says: "I no longer see any reason why the South African Police should allow the *CAPE TIMES* access to any information regarding police matters."

Outlook for Rand

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English for 17 March reports on page 1 that "Economic Opinion," the organ of the merchant bank Senbank, says in its March issue that the rand, while currently undervalued and having scope for some recovery, is in the longer term "likely to succumb to the pressures of high inflation, balance-of-payments difficulties, and political uncertainty." The argument is based on the theory of purchasing-power parity, in this case the ratio of the wholesale price of South Africa's traded goods against those of the United States, and the concept of real effective exchange rates. Both indicators reveal that the commercial rand is below its true value and could appreciate. The report declares that if foreign trade is to expand, particular care must be shown to create a stable climate in the forex market. The rand's future health will also depend on its breaking the grip of a deteriorating balance of payments.

Comment on Cultural Boycott

BUSINESS DAY comments on page 6 that South Africans tend to "shrug off" the growing cultural boycott as being of little import. Government, it says, "is no less out of touch," perhaps even more so. "This state of affairs is the direct result of 40 years of increasing isolation, both self-imposed and externally imposed." TV has now become the main source of information and entertainment for 70 percent of the white population, but SABC presents a "carefully laundered" view of the world. Overseas, the people who should be at the forefront of opening wider our window on the world have being doing the opposite. "We don't question the sincerity of actors and acresses who would like to stop all foreign TV programmes being broadcast in this country. What we do question is their good sense," the editorial says. They have the right to do what they will with the proceeds of their endeavors — "including donate them to the ANC, as the cast of TV's 'Cagney and Lacey' series intend. But if they have any commitment to peaceful evolution, they should be dissuaded from steps to further isolate this ocuntry. Cultural boycotts achieve nothing that is good."

Liquidations, Insolvencies Rise

An article on page 7 reports that 3,061 companies were liquidated in 1985 compared with 2,675 in 1984. Quoting figures from the Central Statistical Service the article says voluntary liquidations last year totalled 1,047 and compulsory ones 2,014. The number of insolvencies nearly doubled in 1985 to 3,221 compared with 1,637 in 1984.

Councils Disband

Johannesburg *DIE VADERLAND* in Afrikaans of 14 March reports on page 8 that that only 33 of the 193 community councils have had to disband due to the unrest situation. This was said by Mr Tom Boya, chairman of UCASA [Urban Councils Association of South Africa], when he addressed the union of development studies at the Rand Afrikaans University. On the opposition in black residential areas to the local community councils, Mr Boya said: " 'Even though it is true that blacks do not have representation in the government, we had to go in, because someone has to provide the services needed at local level.' " He added that much could be achieved, even through the present system. He said that the unrest would not end until apartheid was abolished and political prisoners released.

TRANSVALER Asks West's Aid

An editorial on page 10 of Pretoria *DIE TRANSVALER* in Afrikaans on 14 March says it remains a battle to persuade the outside world, which is forever pushing us toward political reform, to consider other forms of involvement here. It says Dr Jan Steyn, of the Urban Foundation, last week asked Western countries to make meaningful investments in South Africa, not for the sake of the whites, but in order to help erase the socioeconomic disadvantage of the nonwhite masses. But the West, says the paper, is "so set on 1-man, 1-vote and political gain that they totally ignore the need for social upliftment as a part of the reform process. Indeed, they even harm the task of upliftment by their disinvestment and boycotts."

ZAMBIA

Party Secretary Zulu Returns From Moscow

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[Text] Party Secretary General Grey Zulu arrived back home today from Moscow where he attended the 27th CPSU Congress. Speaking on arrival, Mr Zulu who was accompanied by the chairman of the legal and political subcommittee, Mr Daniel Lisulo, said one of the major accomplishments of the congress was the declaration by the USSR that it would abolish the use of lethal weapons by the year 2000. Mr Zulu said the USSR would also halt all nuclear tests, as well as the use of chemical warfare. The party chief said [words indistinct] the congress [words indistinct] was met at the airport by Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane, Secretary of State for Defense and Security Alex Shapi, and senior party and government officials.